

Distribution limited

WHC-06/30.COM/7A

Paris, 26 May 2006

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirtieth Session

Vilnius, Lithuania
8-16 July 2006

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

7A. State of conservation reports of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (WHC.05/2), the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of thirty four natural and cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS	3
NATURAL PROPERTIES	3
AFRICA.....	3
1. Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475).....	3
2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)	6
3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea) (N 155/257).....	9
4. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)	12
5. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280).....	18
6. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137).....	20
7. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63).....	25
8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N718).....	30
9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)	34
10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573).....	37
11. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25).....	40
ARAB STATES	41
12. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8)	41
ASIA-PACIFIC.....	45
13. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338).....	45
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.....	48
14. Everglades (United States of America) (N 76)	48
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	53
15. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)	53
CULTURAL PROPERTIES.....	57
AFRICA.....	57
16. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323).....	57
17. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)	60
ARAB STATES	65
18. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193).....	65
19. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90).....	69
20. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)	73
21. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)	75
ASIA-PACIFIC.....	79
22. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev).....	79
23. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev).....	82
24. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)	85
25. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)	88
26. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121).....	90
27. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171-172).....	94
28. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722).....	97

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	98
29. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958).....	98
30. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 rev).....	100
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	104
31. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)	104
32. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366).....	106
33. Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658).....	108
JERUSALEM	112
34. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev).....	112

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document contains information on the state of conservation of 15 natural and 19 cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is submitted to the Committee for review as foreseen in paragraph 190 of the *Operational Guidelines*.
2. At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the Committee reviewed the state of conservation of the 16 natural and 19 cultural properties inscribed on the List of the World Heritage in Danger. The Committee decided to remove three properties (Butrint, Albania; Sangay National Park, Ecuador; Timbuktu, Mali) from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to add two (Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works, Chili; Coro and its Port, Venezuela). The Committee's decisions and recommendations with regard to each property were transmitted by the World Heritage Centre to the concerned States Parties for follow-up action.
3. Responses from the States Parties and new information that has become available on the state of conservation of the properties since the conclusion of the 29th session of the Committee were reviewed and summarized by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) and are herewith presented.
4. The Committee is requested to review the reports of 15 natural and 19 cultural properties provided herein and take appropriate decisions in accordance with paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, which reads as follows:

Regular review of the state of conservation of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

190. *The Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.*

191 *On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned, whether:*

a) additional measures are required to conserve the property;

b) to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;

c) to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inscription on the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 192-198.

5. To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This format has been adapted taking into account Decision **27 COM 7B. 106 paragraph 4**:

“Invites the World Heritage Centre to present all information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the following manner:

(a) the report on each property should start on a new page,

(b) the identification number of the property allocated at the time of its nomination should be used in the document,

(c) an index of all properties should also be included,

(d) the decisions should have a standard layout, draft recommendation, and should be concise and operational.”

6. As per decision **29 COM 7C, paragraph 10**, this format also contains benchmarks indicating the corrective action to be taken to address ascertained and potential dangers as well as a timeframe for each of the individual property inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Therefore the standard format includes:

- Name of the property (State Party) (ID number)
 - Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
 - Criteria
 - Year(s) of inscription List of World Heritage in Danger
 - Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - Benchmarks for corrective measures
 - Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
 - Previous Committee Decision(s)
 - International Assistance
 - UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
 - Previous monitoring mission(s)
 - Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s)
 - Current Conservation issues
 - Draft Decision
7. The information contained in this document was prepared in consultation with other UNESCO Divisions and with the Advisory Bodies.

II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1988

Criteria:

N (ii) (iv)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1997

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Illegal grazing;
- b) Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups and subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife;
- c) Deteriorating security situation and the halt of tourism.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks have been set to date.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

As above

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.1

29 COM 7A.1

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 296,653 for emergency assistance and technical cooperation.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO/IUCN mission in May 2001

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Insecurity;

- b) Poaching;
- c) Transhumance;
- d) Mining;
- e) Illegal fishing;
- f) Lack of resources.

Current conservation issues:

No formal report on the State of Conservation of the property and on progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the 2001 UNESCO/IUCN mission was received from the State Party at the time of preparation of the document.

In July 2005, the World Heritage Centre participated in a meeting with the European Union and staff of the EU funded ECOFAC project, which is working in the village hunting zones surrounding the Park and which has also provided logistical and financial support to anti-poaching operations in the property. At the meeting, the preliminary results of the wildlife surveys that took place in northern Central African Republic were presented and discussed. Staff from the ECOFAC project expressed fear that poaching in the property would increase significantly as the ECOFAC activities were suspended as of June 2005, awaiting the approval and start up of a new project phase, which was expected to start around April 2006.

Following this meeting, in October 2005 the World Heritage Centre decided to provide special financial support to the State Party (USD 76,653) from the World Heritage Fund's budget dedicated to World Heritage properties in Danger, with the support of the ECOFAC programme, to permit the State Party to continue vital anti-poaching activities in the property. Furthermore, the State Party acknowledged receipt of equipment purchased with the support of the World Heritage Fund through emergency assistance (USD 50,000) which was granted in November 2004. The equipment consisted of a 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser, two motorcycles and radio communication equipment (HF codan, GPS, walkie-talkies). This equipment was handed over to the Ministry in charge of Environment by the Director General of UNESCO during his visit to the Central African Republic from 25 to 27 January 2006. During the visit, the Director General stressed the need to give particular attention to the preservation and conservation of the World Heritage property.

The World Heritage Centre received on 18 April 2006 an interim progress report on the implementation of the emergency funding together with the final report of the aerial survey of May/June 2005 implemented by the ECOFAC programme. The progress report also provides information on the state of conservation of the property.

The report of the aerial survey clearly documents the alarming situation of the Park's fauna, in spite of the State Party's efforts to combat poaching with the support of ECOFAC. In comparison to the survey conducted in 1985, the populations of all species covered by the survey have declined seriously, particularly inside the property and the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park. Population densities of most species are actually higher in the adjacent hunting zones than in the National Parks, due to the presence of safari hunting activities and related anti-poaching activities and the fact that poachers coming from Sudan and Chad enter less into the hunting areas than into the National Parks, situated closer to the borders. The property has lost approximately 95 % of its elephant population, now estimated at less than 500 animals. Buffon's Kob (*Kobus kob*), Defassa Waterbuck (*Cobus defassa*) and Topi Hartebeest (*Damaliscus korrigum*) are at the verge of extinction, whilst populations of Bohor reedbuck (*Redunca redunca*), Giant Eland (*Taurotragus derbianus*), Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Western

Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus Buselaphus*) and Roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) have diminished in the property but increased or stabilised in the hunting zones.

The survey also found a lot of evidence of human activity in the property. Apart from poaching, fishing and cattle grazing are serious threats to the integrity of the property. Given these results, the report recommends concentrating conservation activities on the remaining strongholds of wild animal populations. With the encouraging results from the hunting zones adjacent to the property, the report also recommends applying a zoning scheme to the property, which would allow controlled exploitation of the resources in certain areas, generate revenues for local people and help fund the conservation of priority zones. Whilst the decline in animal populations is dramatic, northern Central African Republic probably contains the last viable populations of many of the mammals' characteristic for the Soudano-Guinean ecoregion and the remaining populations in the region could still permit a recovery if the poaching threat is brought under control.

The progress report of the emergency project notes that the closure of Phase III of ECOFAC in June 2005 and the reactivation of tensions in the Darfur region in Sudan and the South East of Chad have led to a renewed infiltration of foreign poachers into the Park and its periphery. According to the State Party, the financial support provided by UNESCO was critical to ensuring the pursuit of anti-poaching activities while waiting for the launching of the Phase IV of ECOFAC. The support received from UNESCO as well as from some private operators and a NGO named "Association pour la protection de la Faune de Centrafrique" (APFC) has enabled the State Party to avoid the total invasion of the property by poachers. Anti-poaching activities took place from December 2005 to March 2006. Patrols intervened in the Park periphery with the objective to stop incursions of Sudanese poachers' caravans and control their exits. The patrols were undertaken by teams of trackers-guards supervised by APFC experts. The teams had 3 armed encounters with Sudanese poaching caravans, which they were able to stop from entering into the property. Patrols were also organised within the Park on the basis of information provided by local NGOs. During those patrols, 6 poachers were arrested and brought to justice; several weapons were seized including one automatic weapon (AK47) and one poaching caravan was driven out of the Park. Efforts were also made to chase cattle herds out of the property.

With regard to the monitoring mission requested by the Committee, the difficult security situation in the country has so far prevented the World Heritage Centre and IUCN from carrying out the mission. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN have been planning to link the mission to a multi-stakeholder workshop to develop a major programme of action and fundraising strategy for the conservation of the property in cooperation with the European Union (EU). However, the start of the next phase of EU funded programme 'Conservation et utilisation rationnelle des écosystèmes forestières de l'Afrique centrale' (ECOFAC) has been delayed. If the security situation improves, it is hoped that progress will be made in organising the mission and stakeholder workshop prior to the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Centre also received information that the Africa Parks Foundation, a Dutch based NGO specialised in managing protected areas in Africa under public-private partnerships, which recently took responsibility for the management of Garamba National Park in DRC. This NGO is exploring the possibility of also getting involved in Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.1** and **29 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2001 UNESCO / IUCN mission to the property;
4. Further regrets that the requested monitoring mission has not yet taken place due to security concerns;
5. Recommends the State Party, IUCN and UNESCO organise the mission and the planned stakeholder workshop in close cooperation with the ECOFAC programme as soon as the security situation allows;
6. Requests the State Party, in cooperation with the European Union, to take the necessary measures to start as soon as possible the fourth phase of the ECOFAC programme and within the framework of the programme put emphasis on the conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
7. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to continue the financial support from the World Heritage Fund for maintaining anti-poaching operations in the property until the start of the fourth phase of the ECOFAC programme;
8. Recommends the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to facilitate a high level meeting between the State Party and the Government of Sudan and Chad, in close cooperation with the ECOFAC programme, to discuss the persistent problem of transborder poaching and resource exploitation in the region;
9. Urges the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property and progress with the implementation of recommendations of the 2001 UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007 ;
10. **Decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1983

Criteria:

N (ii) (iv)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
2003

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Potential impacts of civil unrest;
- b) Decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching;
- c) Lack of effective management mechanisms.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks have been set as a mission has not been possible since the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions :

28 COM 15A.2

29 COM 7A.2

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for technical assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: The property received USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities.

Previous monitoring missions :

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports :

- a) Conflict and political instability;
- b) Lack of management control and access;
- c) Poaching; human occupation and agricultural pressure;
- d) Bush fire.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 21 March 2006. The report, however, provides little new information to that reported to the 29th session of the Committee (Durban, 2005).

The State Party continues to control only 35 % of the property; the remaining being inaccessible and under the control of rebel troops. Park infrastructure and equipment destroyed or looted by the rebels has not been replaced. No human occupation is reported to have occurred in the Park despite people moving from the north to the south. Poaching remains the main threat to the property but is reported to be under control in the southern part of the property. Illegal forest exploitation has been brought under control with the help of local communities. Some agricultural encroachment occurs in the area controlled by the rebel forces but is understood to be minimal.

The State Party has placed staff in the south of the Park that is under government control and the UNESCO MAB Programme has recently provided assistance to carry out awareness activities and to reinstate patrols in the south. The State Party also notes that the European Union programme signed and later suspended in 2002, may also start again soon.

The State Party report claims that although management presence is minimal, the civil unrest is having little impact on the integrity of the property, thanks to the support of local communities through awareness raising.

Unfortunately, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN so far were unable to carry out the monitoring mission to the property requested by the Committee at its 28th and 29th sessions due to ongoing security concerns. The State Party is seeking the support of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) to implement this mission in the near future. Until this can take place, it is impossible for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to assess the state of conservation of the property.

On 6 April 2006, the World Heritage Centre received an invitation letter from the State Party to undertake the mission. The State Party has proposed that the monitoring mission be undertaken from 10 to 23 June 2006. If this mission takes place as currently scheduled, the outcomes will be presented during the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), and a revised draft Decision would be proposed to take account of the conclusions of the mission.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 28 COM 15A.2 and 29 COM 7A.2, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th sessions (Durban, 2005) respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the report submitted by the State Party provides little new information on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes with great concern that the State Party continues to have control of and access to only a third of the property;*
5. *Encourages the European Union to allow the restarting of the Côte d'Ivoire Protected Areas Conservation Programme;*
6. *Recommends that the State Party, IUCN and UNESCO seek the full support of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) to carry out the mission;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
8. ***Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea) (N 155/257)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1981

Criteria:

N (ii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1992

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea;
- b) Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve;
- c) Insufficient institutional structure.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

Benchmarks have not yet been set by the World Heritage Committee.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

N/A

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15A.1

29 COM 7A.3

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 473,349 for project preparation, equipment and training,

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO Mission in 1988; UNESCO/IUCN mission in 1993; IUCN mission in 1994; UNESCO mission in 2000.

Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s):

- a) Mining;
- b) Influx of refugees;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Deforestation;
- e) Poaching;
- f) Weak management capacity;
- g) Lack of resources;
- h) Lack of transboundary cooperation.

Current conservation issues:

Reports on the state of conservation of the property were received from both States Parties on the 21 March 2006.

On the side of Côte d'Ivoire, the property continues to be completely under the control of rebel forces. No conservation activities are taking place and all of the Park's infrastructure and equipment have been taken over, destroyed or pillaged. Despite this, the State Party reports that the natural resources have not been adversely affected.

The State Party of Guinea reports ongoing degradation on the Guinean side, mostly within the Boussou and Déré zones of the larger Biosphere Reserve and which act as buffer zones to the World Heritage property. Encroachment and deforestation for cultivation and pastoralism is ongoing here, along with disputes between local people and the Park authority. This situation is a result of inadequate monitoring and patrolling due to a lack of resources. Pastoralists have also entered the World Heritage property during the dry season with hundreds of cattle causing important damage. Bush fires started by illegal hunters and pastoralists have reached the property and are difficult to control without the necessary equipment or personnel.

Illegal hunting by mine workers or villagers for local consumption continues. A recent project supported by the Netherlands Committee of IUCN and Flora and Fauna International (FFI) has found this practice to be taking place at a very high and unsustainable rate. The project has however helped groups of hunters to convert to surveillance activities and to the raising game for animal protein. Sellers of bush-meat have also been converted to the sale of crops, local craftworks and other products, as well as the setting up of a non-commercial association.

A 14km road from Gbakoré to Pierré Richaud, within the mining concession enclave, was built by the "Société des Minerais de Fer de Guinée" (SMFG) in November 2005 without consultation with the Park authorities, although an environmental impact assessment is said to have been carried out. Since 2005, the Société des Minerais de Fer de Guinée" (SMFG) is reported to have reactivated its activities in the mining enclave that was excluded from the World Heritage property in 1993. Currently, exploration activities are taking place, which are expected to last for a period of three years. The company also increased security measures and is undertaking a complete renovation of the mining town. The Park guards have subsequently been removed from the town, making their monitoring and patrolling work more difficult.

The State Party of Guinea notes that there is a critical need for additional resources and training for its personnel, commenting that it has not received adequate funding from the international community and World Heritage Fund until now. It requests that a monitoring mission be sent prior to the 30th session of the Committee, with the aim of assessing the current state of conservation of the property before the start of the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO-FFI project. Such an evaluation should assess the extent to which the 1993 mission recommendations have been implemented; and meeting with the States Parties of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

The report from the State Party of Guinea does not provide any update on the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO-FFI supported project entitled "Conservation of the Biodiversity of the Nimba Mountains through Integrated and Participatory Management". As regards the funding, the World Heritage Centre has learnt from the National administrator of the project that the Conservation of the biodiversity of the Nimba Mountains Programme is financed by GEF to a total of USD 3,650,000, by UNDP/Guinea for USD 1,650,000 and by FFI for USD 200,000. The mining company SMFG is still requested to contribute USD 4,500,000 towards the project. Unfortunately, activities in the field have not yet started.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that, while the reports from both States Parties are useful in understanding some of the management issues at the property, they provide little

information on the actual state of conservation of the values of the property and the impacts of various threats on these values, e.g. mining. For this reason, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that it is necessary to carry out a monitoring mission to the property in Guinea as requested by the State Party of Guinea, and in Côte d'Ivoire if the security situation allows.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received in October 2005 a summary of a report prepared by FFI, at the request of the SMFG and BHP Billiton, on "Contributions towards an Environmental strategy for the SMFG". The report proposes as an environmental goal for the company "to ensure a net positive effect on the environment and biological diversity of the Guinean Nimba Mountains and immediately surrounding areas as well as on the human communities directly affected by the Guinean portion of the mountain chain and the mining operation". The report defines 11 objectives for inside the concession and 8 objectives for outside the concession, as well as indicators of success, to achieve this goal. The report concludes that a conscientiously run mine in the Nimba mountains that addresses environmental and social considerations outside as much as inside the concession area could be a positive force for the World Heritage property.

On 3 April 2006, the World Heritage Centre received a delegation comprising the President of SMFG, together with the national Administrator of the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO-FFI Project to discuss the current situation of the Mount Nimba conservation project as well as the proposed reopening of the iron-ore mining concessions within and around Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve.

Regarding the issue of re-opening iron-ore mining, the World Heritage Centre expressed to the delegation its concern over the potential impact of the mining activities on the values of the property. The President of the SMFG expressed the willingness of his company to cooperate with the Centre in order to ensure minimizing as much as possible the impacts of mining on the property. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre was assured that mining would only take place outside the World Heritage property. In this regard, the President informed the Centre that a feasibility study is currently under preparation aimed at undertaking a comprehensive inventory of fauna and flora in the mining enclave before the commencement of any mining activities. This was in addition to information provided regarding future plans for an environmental impact assessment. SMFG invited the Centre's participation in these activities.

The President of SMFG also informed the Centre of yet another feasibility study being undertaken by his company on the impact of constructing a "Transguinean" railroad to run from Mount Nimba to the Guinean coast for the purpose of transporting iron-ore from the mountain. The President assured the Centre that the railway starts outside the World Heritage property. The issue of the mining enclave delineated in 1993 by an interdisciplinary mission headed by UNESCO was also raised. It was agreed that the property should be revisited in order to re-establish a proper zoning using modern techniques such as GPS for accuracy. The World Heritage Centre notes that the property does not have proper maps and in view of the current increased global demand of iron-ore, a clear boundary demarcation is important to ensure that the integrity of the property is protected. It needs to be noted that the legal status of the protected area is somewhat unclear: the area was classified as an integral natural reserve in the colonial time but this status was never clearly confirmed after independence. However, the Reserve's status was implicitly recognised through its classification as a Biosphere Reserve in 1980 and the inscription of the core area as a World Heritage site in 1981. With regard to the GEF-UNDP-UNESCO-FFI conservation of biological diversity project of Mounts Nimba, the National Project Coordinator requested the World Heritage

Centre to launch the implementation of the project components earmarked for execution by UNESCO. Funds from the GEF for this component are already available and the State Party plans to seek additional funding under the World Heritage Fund.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Notes with concern that the part of the property located in Côte d'Ivoire remains entirely under the control of rebel forces and that encroachment, deforestation, hunting, mining and that a lack of management capacity and resources continue to threaten the property in Guinea;*
4. *Urges the State Party of Guinea to review the existing protection status of the Reserve and to initiate legal and legislative instruments to ensure protection of the property, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
5. *Requests the State Party of Guinea and UNDP to start as soon as possible the field implementation of the GEF funded Mount Nimba project and to cooperate with the World Heritage Centre to start the UNESCO activities foreseen under the project;*
6. *Also requests the States Parties of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire to invite a joint IUCN-UNESCO monitoring mission to the property, as the security situation allows, with the aim of assessing the state of conservation of the property; evaluating the extent to which recommendations of the 1993 monitoring mission to Guinea have been met, reviewing the current status of the mining activities in the mining enclave and establishing corrective measures and benchmarks, in view of a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
7. *Further requests the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the status of the mining activities and its potential impacts on the integrity of the property, the implementation of the Mount Nimba project and progress towards reviewing the protection status of the Reserve, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
8. *Decides to retain **Mont Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea)** on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.*

4. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria:

N (iii) (iv)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1997; previously inscribed 1984 - 1992

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Increased poaching ;
- b) Pressure as a result of civil conflict, threatening flagship species within the property.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks had been set before the 2006 UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

As above

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.3

29 COM 7A.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 157,845 for equipment and staff allowances.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: The property received substantial support through the United Nations Foundation and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties. In the first phase (2001–2005), approximately USD 600,000 was disbursed for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities. Under the second phase (2005-2008) a substantial contribution is planned towards the emergency action plan (USD 300,000) and community conservation activities (USD 300,000) with funding from the Government of Italy.

Previous monitoring missions:

No monitoring mission but several UNESCO missions in the framework of the UNF project.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Armed conflict and political instability ;
- b) Poaching by local and Sudanese poachers ;
- c) Inadequate management capacity.

Current conservation issues:

On 30 January 2006, an updated report on the State of Conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party, including information on the Garamba National Park.

At the 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Centre gave an update on the situation in the Garamba National Park since the preparation of the working document. It confirmed that the Government had notified the Centre by letter dated 27 April, 2005 that it could not allow the translocation of part of the remaining population of Northern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) but announced the sending of an army brigade to help secure the property. The World Heritage Centre also reported that end of March 2005, all

conservation NGO supporting Garamba National Park suspended their operations due to rising tensions in the region related to the proposed translocation and that the International Rhino Foundation announced halting their support to the conservation of the property.

Following the decision made by the Committee at its 29th session on the possible delisting of the property if the presence of the Northern White Rhino could not be confirmed by 1 February 2006, the World Heritage Centre in September 2005 send a mission to Kinshasa to notify the DRC authorities of this decision and to urge them to take urgent measures to secure the property, improve its management and save the Northern White Rhino from extinction. The mission met with Vice President Z'Ahidi Ngoma in the presence of the Deputy Permanent Delegate of DRC to UNESCO, the Director of Cabinet of the President, Mr. Kitundu, the Minister for Environment, Mr Anselme Enerunga and the newly appointed Director-General and senior staff of the protected area authority ICCN. Following this mission, the Government and ICCN concluded an agreement with Africa Parks Foundation (APF) to entrust the management of the property for a period of 5 years to the Foundation. APF is a Dutch foundation, which has a mission to manage protected areas in Africa, at the request of governments, in a public-private partnership and based on a business approach. The agreement defines the objective of the partnership between APF and ICCN as the rehabilitation of the Garamba National Park, a World Heritage site in danger, and the 3 adjacent hunting areas". APF commenced operations in the Park in November 2005 and announced they were mobilizing substantial financial resources for the Park from a number of donors, including the European Union, the World Bank and the German Development Bank.

In January 2006, the security situation in and around the property deteriorated, as rebels from the Uganda Lord Resistance Army (LRA) infiltrated the Azande Hunting Area (DCAz) to the east of the Park. On 23 January, 8 Peacekeepers of MONUC (United Nations Organization Mission in DRC) were killed and 5 wounded in a clash with LRA rebels in DCAz), close to the border of the Park.

A comprehensive aerial survey of key mammal species in the property, particular northern white rhino, elephants and Congolese giraffe, was conducted from 16 to 31 March 2006 by ICCN, APF and the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre.

The UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission conducted to the property took place 30 March – April 7, 2006 including a 4 day field visit to the property. Preliminary results of the survey were studied and discussed with staff of ICCN, APF and AfRSG. During the survey, the presence of northern white rhino in the property was confirmed, but only 2 animals (1 male and 1 female) were sighted during the survey. The presence of rhino in the hunting area Gangala na Bodio (DCGnB), where rhino signs were reported at several occasions, could not be confirmed. However, no recent rhino carcasses (less than 1 year old) were found. Given the difficulty of viewing rhinos, especially in the densely wooded hunting area, it remains possible that certain animals were not sighted during the survey, and therefore there may be one or more additional animals surviving. According to the specialists of the AfRSG, there is a chance of recovery provided rhinos can be protected; although it must be recognized that the lower the number of animals actually surviving, the lower the chances of recovery being successful in the long run. The fact that some animals might have been missed by the survey was confirmed later, since on 23 April, the Centre and IUCN received information from APF that a third rhino (male) was sighted close to the Gangala Park station. Further surveys are required to clarify the exact number of rhinos within the Park.

The survey further counted 3839 elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), 8145 buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), 2292 hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) and 70 Congolese giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis congoensis*) inside the property and DCGnB. Whilst these figures show a net decline compared to the estimates based on a 2004 census, they are more positive than the results of the August 2005 aerial count and than was expected. It is also very important to note that during the 2006 survey no active poaching camps could be observed in the southern sector of the Park and only 3 recent elephant carcasses (less than 1 year old) were counted. This is a clear indication that poaching is currently under control and that the situation is improving. The mission was able to confirm this extremely positive development during its field visit. The mission recognised the importance of the agreement ICCN concluded with APF to stop the further degradation of the values of the property and the very important progress achieved in the conservation of the property since November 2005. Conservation activities have been strengthened, important investments have been made in infrastructure and equipment and a new anti-poaching strategy was introduced, consisting of the deployment of 4 well trained guard sections inside the vital rhino area under the command of an anti-poaching expert. Close cooperation has also been developed with the DRC army brigade that was sent by the government in July 2005 to assist in securing the Park following its refusal of the translocation. Nevertheless, the instability in the region, together with the presence of the LRA in DCAz, the on-going infiltration of armed groups from Sudan, the presence of well organized poachers in the area and the wide distribution of war graded weapons within the local population underline the critical situation faced by the Park and the essential need to further strengthen anti-poaching efforts within the Park.

With regard to the possible delisting of the property from the World Heritage List, the mission considers that further efforts are needed to clarify if a viable population of northern white rhino is still present in the property and adjacent hunting areas. In particular, it is necessary to undertake a detailed ground reconnaissance of DCGnB and to repeat the aerial survey of the property to evaluate the presence of other individuals in the Park before April 2007. Once the final results are available, it is recommended that ICCN and APF organise a workshop to discuss management options for the remaining population, inviting all relevant stakeholders, including the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and AfRSG. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN therefore recommend the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee defer any decision on the possible delisting of Garamba National Park from the World Heritage List until its 31st session in 2007. At the same time, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the property protects important populations of other key mammal species including African elephants and the endemic Congolese giraffe, which are explicitly mentioned in the nomination file. It is also important to note that together with Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park in Central African Republic, Garamba National Park is probably the last important stronghold of a number of species or sub-species characteristic of the soudano-guinean ecoregion.

The UNESCO/IUCN mission felt that given the state of conservation of the property, the instability in the region and the rapidly changing situation in the field, it was unlikely that the property could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the foreseeable future and therefore it was currently impossible to define benchmarks that will clearly lead to this removal. However the mission developed recommendations to the State Party which can be used by the Committee as benchmarks to support the efforts of the State Party to further improve the state of conservation of the property. These recommendations are included into the proposed draft Decision.

The mission also took note of the increased presence of United Nations Organisation Mission to DRC (MONUC) in the region. Whilst this can be extremely beneficial for the Park, it noted that cooperation between MONUC and Park authorities is insufficient and should be improved. The mission also noted that the region of the Park is extremely isolated and that very limited humanitarian assistance or development activities are taking place. There is therefore a need to request donor agencies to increase their investment in the region, not only for conservation activities but also by supporting development programmes that can help alleviate the extreme poverty of local communities.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.4, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party for having taken urgent measures to improve the state of conservation of the property and the in-situ conservation of the northern white rhino, in particular the conclusion of an agreement with African Parks Foundation for the management of the property ;*
4. *Notes that the property still faces major threats, particularly as a result of armed insurgency in and around the Park;*
5. *Requests ICCN and APF, in cooperation with the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group(AfRSG), to clarify the viability of the remaining populations of Northern White Rhino in the property before 30 April 2007 and to organise a workshop on the management options for the population, involving all relevant stakeholders, including the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
6. *Urges the State Party to implement immediately the recommendations of the UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission in order to safeguard the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property:*
 - a) *Ensure the protection of the border between DRC and Sudan within and adjacent to the property;*
 - b) *Improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped ;*
 - c) *Ensuring that the ICCN guard force is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition;*
 - d) *Undertaking in cooperation with United Nations Organisation Mission to DRC (MONUC) a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region;*

- e) *Reinforcing cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into DRC and the property;*
 - f) *Continue and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey;*
 - g) *Strengthen efforts to improve relations with the local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme;*
 - h) *Take urgent measures to reinforce and rejuvenate the Garamba guard force;*
 - i) *Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team for building on the know-how available in ICCN and AfRSG.*
7. *Requests the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) to increase its cooperation with ICCN and APF for the conservation of the property;*
 8. *Urges the World Heritage Centre to start as soon as possible the implementation of its projects to support the emergency action plan of the property and to set up a community conservation programme for the property as planned in the second phase of its DRC World Heritage biodiversity programme with funding of the Government of Italy;*
 9. *Recommends the World Heritage Centre and IUCN facilitate a high level meeting between the State Party and the Government of Sudan, to discuss the persistent problem of transborder poaching and resource exploitation in the region;*
 10. *Further recommends the World Heritage Centre and IUCN contact the CITES secretariat, in order to investigate the trading networks and countries of destination of the rhino horn and ivory poached in Garamba National Park and other DRC World Heritage properties;*
 11. *Calls on international donors to support the efforts of the State Party to conserve the property and save the Northern White Rhino from extinction and to assist the development of the region in order to alleviate the extreme poverty of the local communities;*
 12. *Urges the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report before **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property and progress with the implementation of recommendations of the UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session (2007) ;*
 13. *Defers its decision on the possible removal of the property from the World Heritage List until its 31st session in 2007 in order to allow the State Party to conduct the necessary research to establish the viability of the remaining population of Northern White Rhino in the property and adjacent hunting areas;*
 14. ***Decides to retain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

5. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1996

Criteria:

N (ii) (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1999

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Impact of conflict;
- b) Poaching and illegal encroachment.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks have been set to date.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

As above

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.3

29 COM 7A.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 85,500 for project planning, guard training and infrastructure.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: The property received substantial support through the United Nations Foundation and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties. In the first phase (2001 – 2005), approximately USD 350,000 was disbursed for staff allowances, community conservation, monitoring, training activities and equipment.

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Conflicts with local communities on the boundaries of the Park;
- d) Impact of villages included in the Park.

Current conservation issues:

On 30 January 2006, an updated report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party, including information on the Salonga National Park. The report gives some information on the major threats to the property. The most important threat is poaching by armed groups, including by military of the DRC army

(FARDC). At the time of the creation of the Park, certain villages were included within its boundary, in particular the Yaelima in the north and the Kitawalist in the south. Subsistence activities in these areas, in particular poaching and slash and burn agriculture are a permanent threat to the integrity of the property. Unclear Park borders also create many tensions with local communities.

On 7 April 2006, the World Heritage Centre also received a briefing note on several cases of poaching involving FARDC military from the WWF, which is implementing a project to assist the conservation of the Park, with financial support from the European Union and the US funded CARPE programme (Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment). The report notes that poaching by armed groups and in particular FARDC military is increasing and is particularly destructive for the Park. ICCN Park guards have great difficulties combating this form of organised poaching, as they were disarmed during the conflict and so far have not been re-armed. Several armed clashes occurred between Park guards and FARDC soldiers, resulting in two guards being killed since November 2005. At least 10 elephants are reported to have been killed by soldiers of the FARDC in Mbandaka and Boende. The report also noted that the military is also supplying local poachers around the property with weapons and ammunition, creating a climate of insecurity both for the local populations and Park staff. The report provides detailed information on a number of poaching cases in which the military were involved.

It is important to note that the management of Salonga National Park, with 36,000 km², is one of the largest protected areas in the world and presents huge logistical challenges, especially in the context of DRC, where basic road infrastructure is lacking. The Park until recently received very little outside support, apart from support to cover guard salaries through the first phase of the UNESCO programme for DRC World Heritage sites and limited support through some smaller research projects, operating in certain areas in the Park. Since 2004, WWF started a support project for the Park, with funding from the European Union and CARPE/USAID. In November 2005, the project published a detailed analysis of the management situation in the Park. The study reviewed the administration, human resources, infrastructure, and equipment in the property and reviewed the conservation strategy used and the relations with local communities. The study also notes that there is no unified management of the Park and the different sectors are managed as separate entities with only limited contact between the different conservators as a result of the logistical challenges. Two third of the Park guards have a certain age, some have no official contracts and are unpaid, resulting in problems of internal poaching. Staff are also poorly trained. Park infrastructure is in a poor condition, most buildings being constructed with inadequate material.

With the assistance of UNESCO, all stations now possess long wave radios allowing communication with Kinshasa and between the stations but there is no VHF system allowing communication with patrols in the field. The Park has no vehicles or motor bikes and only has 15 dug out canoes, 4 outboard engines and 11 bicycles. The Park only has 49 functioning arms for 172 guards patrolling 36,000 km² and very limited field equipment. The report also shows that patrol posts organise an average of two patrols per month, each between 4 and 21 days. Patrols are often visiting the same area and certain parts of the Park are not covered at all. There is little cooperation with the army compared to other properties in DRC, where joint patrols with the army are common. Population densities inside the property are low, with the exception of the Yaelima village in the south, comprising between 3,000 and 5,000 people and the Kitawalist in the north, estimated at 3,000 people. The Park has no community conservation or environmental education programme in place. The report also proposes a

detailed list of recommendations to start tackling the above mentioned management problems, along with a timetable for their implementation.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern over the continued reports of poaching involving members of the DRC armed forces and the increased number of armed clashes between Park guards and army soldiers involved in poaching, resulting in the death of two Park guards;*
4. *Urges the State Party to take urgent measures to stop poaching by soldiers of the DRC armed forces in the property and to take appropriate measures to punish members from the armed forces involved in poaching and in the recent killing of two Park guards;*
5. *Further urges the Park management agency ICCN, in cooperation with its partner NGOs, to implement the recommendations developed in the report on the management capacity in the property, prepared in the framework of the WWF support project to the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission, to assess the state of conservation of the property and to develop recommendations to improve its conservation;*
7. *Calls on international donors to support the efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate the property;*
8. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
9. *Decides to retain **Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.*

6. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria:

N (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1997

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Impact of refugees;
- b) Presence of armed militia and illegal settlers in the property;
- c) Increased poaching;
- d) Deforestation.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks have been set to date.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

As above.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.3

29 COM 7A.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,848 for equipment and staff allowances.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: through the United Nations Foundation and the Government of Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties. First phase (2001–2005): approximately USD 300,000 was disbursed for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities and efforts to address encroachment. Second phase (2005-2008): a substantial contribution is planned towards the emergency action plan (USD 300,000) with funding from the Government of Belgium.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO mission in 1996. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Encroachment;
- d) Illegal mining and deforestation.

Current conservation issues:

On 30 January 2006, an updated report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party, including information on the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The report recalls the major threats to the property, in particular the presence of rebels from Rwanda in the property, encroachment by large scale farmers, mining inside the Park, deforestation, population pressure on the Park and conflicts with local people, particularly those resulting from the extension of the Park in 1975. The report describes a number of activities initiated by the State Party, in cooperation with its partners, to respond to these threats, as well as certain constraints, which were reviewed during the UNESCO monitoring mission.

From 3 to 23 March 2005, an UNESCO monitoring mission visited Virunga National Park and Kahuzi-Biega National Park. IUCN joined the mission in Kinshasa for debriefing

meetings with the DRC protected area administration and the ministry. The mission notes that in spite of the continuing threats to the property, certain positive developments were observed since 2004. After the war of General Nkunda in August 2004, security improved considerably in the highland sector of the Park, in particular on the eastern side of the mountains. This resulted in a stabilisation of the gorilla population in this sector and improved cooperation between the Park and the local communities. An inventory of the gorilla population conducted in the highland sector in November 2004 found 168 gorillas, a considerable improvement compared to the estimate of 130 found in the survey of 2000.

In the lowland sector however, the security situation remains precarious, as the region is the scene of regular armed clashes between the DRC army (FARDC), assisted by troops from the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC), and elements of the Rwandan rebel movement FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda). FDLR use the Park as their operational base, in the corridor between the highland and lowland sector in the Nindja area, in the western side of the highland sector in Bunyakiri and in the lowland sector in Swiza, a former mining area located inside the Park. FDLR is reported to be actively engaged in mining activities in the Park and is also thought to be responsible for much of the poaching. In addition, several other armed groups operate in the region.

FARDC also has numerous military positions around the Park. The reunification and retraining camp, where former militia and army soldiers are retrained for integration in the new reunified army, is situated at Kibirizi, outside the Park. Army troops are reported to be poorly disciplined, badly paid, if at all, and lacking the necessary logistical tools MONUC has a base at the Kavumu airport and is ensuring the security on the Miti-Hombo road, which goes through the Park.

The presence of armed groups but also of the FARDC in the property has a negative impact on its conservation. The armed militia depend for their survival on the resources of the Park and its surroundings and are heavily involved in poaching and resort to looting the surrounding villages. As reported before, they are also involved in the mining activities inside the Park, which provides them with a key source of revenue. Although no figures are available, it is clear that their activities have an extremely negative impact on mammal populations. However, the mission also received information from ICCN Park staff and conservation NGOs that soldiers of FARDC are also involved in destructive activities, in particular poaching, artisanal mining and bamboo harvesting.

It needs to be noted that relations between the Park and the military command in the province are good and that regular joint patrols are conducted between Park guards and the army. For example, a joint action between FARDC and Park staff around the Itebero area was able to chase out poachers and armed groups and close down mining sites. MONUC has also given support to Park operations, in particular logistical support.

A major threat to the Park seems to be the actual military strategy used by FARDC with assistance of MONUC to deal with FDLR. In the two months prior to the mission, several military operations took place in which FDLR base camps were attacked, resulting in a retreat of the rebels into the forests of the Park. From a conservation perspective, the operations have negatively impacted the property as they have driven the rebels inside the Park, where they engage in mining and poaching activities. Following the attacks, FDLR has taken revenge on the local communities living around the property, killing numerous villagers, raping women and burning down houses.

As a result of this insecurity, Park staff only control a limited part of the property. Although the two Park stations Itebero and Nzovu in the lowland sector are again manned by guards since 2004, and three patrol posts were rehabilitated in 2005, it is estimated that only 15 percent of the Park is actually covered by ICCN patrols.

The mission noted that for the moment it is impossible to assess the real impact of the war on the conservation of the Park, in particular the lowland area. The last complete survey of that sector dates from 1994-1995, before the start of the war. In 2005 survey activities started in the Itebero area, but they had to be interrupted because of the security situation. In the area surveyed, presence of gorillas was confirmed, as well as other mammals like duikers, buffalos and leopards but no sign of the presence of elephants could be detected. The mission considers that it is necessary to conduct a survey of the entire lowland area, as soon as the security situation allows it, to be able to assess the real impact of the war and ongoing insecurity on the property.

The mission also enquired about the situation in the corridor connecting the lowland and highland sectors of the Park. The corridor is of utmost importance for the ecological integrity of the property, but is at the centre of conflicts both with the local communities of the Nindja area (part of which was included in the Park when it was extended in 1975) and between a number of important people in the region, who in the 1980s illegally occupied farmland abandoned at the end of the colonial time and which was subsequently included in the extension. These, and other, issues underline the importance of clear demarcation of the Park boundaries. ICCN hopes to reopen its discussion on the Park limit as soon as the security situation allows.

The mission also noted that the Park is receiving clear political support from the government and the provincial and local authorities. The mission met with the recently appointed Governor of the South Kivu province, who pledged his support for the protection of the World Heritage property. The Park authorities were also able to develop good relations with the local traditional chiefs, who are actively supporting conservation efforts. Remarkably, the Park authorities were also able to improve considerably the relations with the local communities during the war as the devastating effects of armed groups on both the Park and the local villages created a clear common agenda. However, with elections approaching, certain politicians are trying to use the Park in the framework of their political campaign. An example is the Minister of Lands, who recently proposed in an official letter to diminish the size of the Park to its original size of 60,000 ha which existed before 1975.

The UNESCO mission felt that given the instability in the region and the rapidly changing situation in the field, it was currently impossible to define a set of corrective measures and benchmarks that will clearly lead to a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, the mission developed a set of concrete recommendations to the State Party which can be used by the Committee to follow up on the efforts of the State Party to further improve the state of conservation of the property. These are detailed in the draft decision.

The mission noted that the Park has received, over the years, substantial technical and financial support, in particular from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and more recently from UNESCO and various NGOs, but that the funding available is insufficient to ensure effective management of the property. The German development Bank is also planning to include the property in the programme it is developing to assist the DRC protected area system. The mission also developed, together with ICCN and the conservation NGO working

in the property, an emergency action plan that will be implemented in the framework of the second phase of the UNESCO DRC World Heritage programme with funding from the Government of Belgium. The action plan will support the above mentioned recommendations.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party, in particular the Park authority ICCN and its conservation partners for the efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and for submitting a report on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Urges the State Party to implement immediately the recommendations of the UNESCO monitoring mission in order to safeguard the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property:*
 - a) *The Congolese army (FARDC), in consultation with the Park authority ICCN, needs to develop a strategy to evacuate all armed groups from the property, in particular rebels belonging to FDLR (Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda) and implement this evacuation in cooperation with MONUC. The strategy will also need to take into account the closing of all illegal mining operations inside the property. The strategy has to avoid driving FDLR rebels inside the property, as is currently the case, where they engage in mineral extraction and poaching;*
 - b) *Substantially strengthening the presence of ICCN Park guards in the lowland sector of the Park, with the assistance of FARDC;*
 - c) *Reclaiming as soon as the security situation allows the farms inside the Park on the basis of the results of the 2001 provincial committee (“Commission des Etatiques Provinciaux concernés par le Conflit foncier du PNKB”), noting that the delimitation of the Park limits in the ecologically important corridor between the lowland and highland sectors remains a priority;*
 - d) *Implementing an information campaign, in which the Government at the highest political level expresses clear support for the conservation of the World Heritage properties, in order to prevent all political misuse of the Park during the election campaign;*
 - e) *Strengthening the cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint planning for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and benchmarks;*
 - f) *Conducting as soon as the security situation allows a survey of flagship species present in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular gorilla and other primates and;*

- g) *Strengthening the law enforcement in the property, thereby gradually increasing the amount of the Park that is covered by guard patrols, in cooperation with MONUC and the army. At the same time it is important to rejuvenate the Park staff and improve their efficiency through specialized training;*
5. *Requests the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) to continue and strengthen its cooperation with ICCN and its conservation partners for the conservation of the property;*
6. *Calls on international donors to support the efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate the property;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 on the state of conservation of the property and progress with the implementation of recommendations of the UNESCO monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007 ;*
8. *Decides to retain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

7. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1979

Criteria:

N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1994

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Impact of refugees ;
- b) Presence of armed militia and illegal settlers in the property ;
- c) Increased poaching, deforestation, pressure from fishing villages in the Park.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks have been set to date.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

As above

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.3

29 COM 7A.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,000 for equipment and staff allowances.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: substantial support through the United Nations Foundation and the Government of Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties. First phase (2001–2005), approximately USD 900,000 was disbursed for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities and efforts to address encroachment. Second phase (2005-2008) a substantial contribution is planned towards the emergency action plan (USD 300,000) with funding from the Government of Belgium.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO mission in 1996. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Encroachment;
- d) Expansion of local fisheries;
- e) Cattle grazing.

Current conservation issues:

On 30 January 2006, an updated report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party, including information on the Virunga National Park. The report recalls the major threats to the property, in particular encroachment by local populations, agricultural activities and cattle herding, illegal timber removal and charcoal production, the presence of illegal fishing villages on the coast of Lake Edward and the presence of military in the Park, which are responsible for 80 percent of the poaching in the property. The report describes a number of activities initiated by the State Party, in cooperation with its partners, to respond to these threats as well as certain constraints, which were reviewed during the UNESCO monitoring mission.

From 3 to 23 March 2005, an UNESCO monitoring mission visited Virunga National Park and Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The IUCN joined the mission in Kinshasa for debriefing meetings with the DRC protected area administration and the ministry. The mission confirmed that the major threats to the property are the presence of military camps and base camps of armed groups inside the Park and encroachment and illegal settlements combined with deforestation.

The mission noted that the Park is still used as a base for a variety of armed groups and that attacks inside and in the vicinity of the Park are common, including attacks on ICCN staff and infrastructure. Even during the mission, the ICCN substation of Kabaraza was attacked and the wife of an ICCN officer killed. The volcanic observatory at Kitale was also attacked and looted. At least 4 armed groups are known to operate in the Park. As a result of the presence of armed groups, certain areas in the Park are off-limits to Park staff, who are thus unable to control poaching and resource exploitation. According to the Congolese army (FARDC), the presence of these armed groups also justifies the numerous military positions in the Park.

According to the army, four brigades, totalling up to 12,000 soldiers are deployed inside and in the immediate vicinity of the Park. Only one of these four brigades has undergone the reunification and retraining programme (so called “brassage”) set up during the political transition phase to recycle the different militias and rebel groups into the unified national army. Troops who have not gone through this process are often poorly disciplined and until

January 2006, were paid irregularly and often received no food rations. Since January 2006, soldiers have received a minimal payment of USD 10 per month from the United Nations Organisation Mission to DRC (MONUC). MONUC has troops in the regional centres of Goma, Beni and Butembo but also in the Park in Rutshuru.

The presence of armed groups but also of the FARDC in the property has a negative impact on its conservation. The armed militia depend for their survival on the resources of the Park and its surroundings and are heavily involved in poaching and are looting the surrounding villages. However, the mission also received information from ICCN Park staff and conservation NGO that soldiers of FARDC are also involved in destructive activities, in particular poaching, charcoal production and artisanal mining. Several armed clashes have also taken place between army soldiers and Park staff. In addition, fighting taking place inside the property between the army and armed groups, such as the violent clashes between the army and the troops of General Nkunda in February 2006, has impacted on the property.

It needs to be noted that the military authorities in the region have recently demonstrated their willingness to increase their cooperation with ICCN. A military liaison officer to ICCN was appointed and several operations have been jointly implemented. Cooperation also increased with MONUC, which has provided Park staff with necessary anti-poaching equipment and in cooperation with FARDC conducted several military operations to try to evict armed militia from the property, thereby improving security in the property.

In previous reports, the World Heritage Committee was informed about efforts by the ICCN to convince the army to close down the military camp in Nyaleke, the largest military camp located in the property and established in 1998 at an abandoned ICCN guard post. In 2005, the Ministry of Defence decided to use the camp for the reunification and retraining programme of local militia and army units and the camp was rehabilitated with the assistance of the Governments of the Netherlands and South Africa. Currently, 4,200 soldiers are being re-trained in the camp. According to reports from ICCN and conservation NGOs the families of the soldiers are also installed in the camp, which contained more than 10,000 people. However, according to information obtained through the Dutch embassy, the families were recently transferred to a site near Beni. Following complaints by the ICCN, the Ministry of Defence in a letter addressed to the Director General of the ICCN agreed to close the Nyaleke camp in April 2006 and subsequently, the ICCN proposed alternative sites outside the property. However, the mission was unable to get confirmation of the closure from the military authorities in Goma.

Concerning the encroachment, the mission also noted that significant progress was made with the evacuation of illegal occupants from the property. Since 2004, the ICCN in cooperation with its partners were able to voluntarily evacuate 70,000 people from the property. This process was supported by the World Heritage Centre through the first phase of its DRC conservation programme. It is estimated that a further 90,000 people are installed in the Park, in particular in Kirolirwe and on the shores of Lake Edward. At the time of the mission, the process of repatriating 300 Hima cattle herders, accompanied by 5,000 cattle from the northern sector of the Park back to neighbouring Uganda was on-going, following an agreement signed between the ICCN and the herdsman. This is a significant success for the Park authorities.

In Kirolirwe, approximately 60,000 people inhabit the Park. After a long negotiation process, most of them are now ready to leave the Park and go back to their regions of origin in the Massisi and Rutshuru areas. However, this process must be supported by the authorities of the

region and humanitarian organisations to ensure security. An important bottleneck to the repatriation remains the rehabilitation of the road to Bibwe. On the shores of Lake Edward 11 illegal fisheries and villages are located and expansion of agricultural fields can be noted. The area is extremely important for the integrity of the property, as it constitutes a corridor enabling wildlife to move between the central and northern sectors. Military are present in the villages and illegal fishing methods are widely practiced, resulting in over fishing. So far, ICCN has been unable to tackle this issue, which is highly political.

The problem of encroachment is directly related to the lack of materialisation of the Park boundaries, which are sometimes poorly known by local communities and even the ICCN. For this reason, the ICCN together with the WWF and with support of UNESCO and other donors has been working for several years on a clarification of controversial parts of the Park boundaries through a participatory process with local stakeholders, which are now recorded in geographical coordinates and materialised. This work will continue in the future.

The mission also noted that the Park is clearly receiving more political support from the government and the provincial and local authorities. The senior management of the ICCN has also been very active in trying to find solutions to certain problems of the Park, such as the presence of the Hima cattle herders. However, with elections approaching, certain politicians are trying to use the Park in the framework of their political campaign. An example is the Minister of Lands, who recently proposed in an official letter to diminish the size of the Park.

The UNESCO mission felt that given the instability in the region and the rapidly changing situation in the field, it was currently impossible to define a set of corrective measures and benchmarks that will clearly lead to a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. However the mission developed a set of concrete recommendations to the State Party which can be used by the Committee as benchmarks to follow up on the efforts of the State Party to further improve the state of conservation of the property and which are detailed in the draft Decision.

The mission noted that although the Park is receiving substantially more technical and financial support than before 2004, from conservation NGOs (WWF, ZSL, FZS, DFGF and WCS) and through the European Union funded project, the funding available is insufficient to ensure effective management of the property. Virunga National Park will also receive funding in the framework of the planned World Bank GEF project, which is scheduled to start in 2007. The mission also developed, together with ICCN and the conservation NGOs working in the property, an emergency action plan that will be implemented in the framework of the second phase of the UNESCO DRC World Heritage programme with funding from the Government of Belgium. The action plan will support implementation of the above mentioned recommendations.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party, in particular the Park authority ICCN and its conservation partners for the efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property;*

4. *Urges the State Party to implement immediately the following recommendations of the UNESCO monitoring mission in order to safeguard the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property:*
 - a) *Establishing a “Committee to Save Virunga” (CSV), comprised of ICCN and its conservation partners and representatives of the provincial authorities, the regular army, MONUC and the agencies on the United Nations present in Goma, which will allow to address the threats to the property;*
 - b) *Reducing significantly the number of military positions inside the property, in particular in the central sector and ensuring a close follow up on cases of illegal activity by military personnel at the level of CSV;*
 - c) *Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence;*
 - d) *Continuing the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated way all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their regions of origin;*
 - e) *Implementing an information campaign, in which the Government at the highest level expresses clear support for the conservation of the World Heritage properties, in order to prevent political misuse of the Park during the election campaign;*
 - f) *Strengthening cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint planning for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan;*
 - g) *Developing a strategy to share any profits, in particular from gorilla tourism, with the local communities, in order to improve relations; and*
 - h) *Strengthening law enforcement in the property, concentrating on priority areas, in particular where the illegal occupants were evacuated and by organising joint missions with MONUC and the army. At the same time it is important to rejuvenate Park staff and improve their efficiency through specialized training.*
5. *Requests the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) to continue and strengthen its cooperation with ICCN and its conservation partners for the conservation of the property;*
6. *Urges the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), other UN agencies and humanitarian organisations working in the region, as well as donor agencies to support the planned peaceful evacuation of the illegal occupants in the property, in particular in Kisorirwe with the necessary accompanying measures;*
7. *Calls on international donors to support the efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate the property;*
8. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 on the state of conservation of the property and progress with the*

implementation of recommendations of the UNESCO monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007 ;

9. ***Decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N718)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1996

Criteria:

N (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1997

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Impact of conflict: looting of Park infrastructure, poaching of elephants;
- b) Presence of gold mining sites inside the property.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No benchmarks have been set to date.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

As above

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.3

29 COM 7A.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 23,000 for preparation of nomination, guard training and camp construction. In 2005, the property received USD 40,000 to combat illegal poaching in the property from the special budget line for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: substantial support through the United Nations Foundation and the Government of Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties. First phase (2001–2005), approximately USD 250,000 was disbursed for staff allowances, community conservation, monitoring and training activities and efforts to address the management of the agricultural zone. Second phase (2005-2008) a substantial contribution is planned towards the emergency action plan (USD 300,000) with funding from the Government of Belgium.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO mission in 1996. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Mining;
- d) Expansion of local settlements and agricultural activities.

Current conservation issues:

On 30 January 2006, an updated report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party, including information on the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. The report recalls the major threats to the property, in particular armed poaching targeting in particular elephants and other large mammals and illegal mining. The report describes a number of activities initiated by the State Party, in cooperation with its conservation partners, Gilman International Conservation (GIC) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), to respond to these threats as well as perspectives for the future. It needs also to be noted that guard payments after the end of the first phase of the UNESCO programme for World Heritage properties in DRC have been taken over by GIC.

Due to the logistical challenges of organising monitoring missions to DRC, the World Heritage Centre and the IUCN, at the time of preparation of this report, were not yet able to conduct the monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its 29th session. The mission is currently planned for May 2006.

At the 29th session, the World Heritage Centre reported that to counter the serious threat presented by poaching and mining, the reserve authority, the ICCN and its conservation partners discussed the possibility of organising a new operation in cooperation with the DRC army (FARDC) to neutralize large-scale commercial poaching in the Reserve and close down the remaining mining sites. A similar operation in 2001 had very positive results. Following a request from the State Party received on 2 August 2005 to participate in funding the preparation, development and implementation of this operation, the World Heritage Centre approved USD 40,000 from the special budget line of the World Heritage Funds for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. As part of the operation, the World Heritage Centre, in November 2005, received a detailed report prepared by authorities of the Reserve and its conservation partners, detailing the networks involved in the poaching, including groups and individuals involved, their bases and mode of operation, the implication of local communities as well as an inventory of the remaining mining sites and the people involved in their exploitation.

The report demonstrates that poaching is in particular targeting elephants, due to their value in terms of ivory and meat, and to a lesser extent, primates. The report identifies 4 zones of high poaching pressure and notes that the individuals involved are members of the armed forces and police, army deserters and armed groups formerly belonging to certain rebel armies as well as certain professional civilian poachers. Local communities are engaged by the poachers as trackers and porters or provide lodging, sometimes by force, and sometimes on a voluntary basis in exchange for part of the meat. The arms used are war-grade, in particular AK47 and FAL and there is a flourishing market in both weapons and ammunition. Ivory is marketed in all major urban centres and prices for ivory vary between USD 10 per kg in the villages around the reserve, USD 15-17 in the regional urban centres of Beni, Bunia and Isiro to USD 22 per kg in centres close to the international border such as Ariwara (on the border with Uganda). Poaching provides the basis for a complex bushmeat and ivory economy and is having serious impacts on the elephant and other large mammal populations of the property. A previous report on the ivory trade in and around the reserve concluded that between June

and December 2004, an estimated 17 tons of ivory were taken out of the Ituri forest, accounting for between 750 and 1000 elephants.

Recent data from surveys work in the property show that elephants are only encountered in high densities in the centre and south of the Reserve, whilst in the western and eastern sector, densities are very low. The report also presents an inventory of the mining sites remaining in the property. An important number of sites may have been closed down in 2000-2001, during the previous operation. Four mining sites were identified in the south-eastern part of the property, and 12 sites in the eastern part, totalling at the time of the inventory approximately 700 artisanal miners. Minerals mined are gold and coltan (niobium/tantalum). Mining sites are often owned or co-owned by local authorities. There is also an implication on the part of government services (department of interior, department of mines, security services), which are providing illegal licences and are perceiving taxes. The military are also reported to be levying taxes in certain sites.

The State Party report notes that Park staff was able to increase the part of the reserve that is covered by law enforcement activities from 50% to 75% and that 10 civilian poachers and 6 military poachers were arrested and ten camps of gold miners destroyed. However, it is clear that the limited guard force is unable to counter the current poaching pressure. Therefore The ICCN presented the results of the report to the Ministry of Defence and the military authorities in Kinshasa and at the regional headquarters in Kisangani and is preparing with them a large scale joint operation similar to the one in 2001. To make the results of the operation more sustainable, it is planned that the areas cleared by the mixed operation will be followed up by increased guard patrols. As part of the project, guards will also receive additional training and ten additional guards will be recruited. The monitoring mission will discuss the operation with the ICCN authorities and an update will be presented at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee.

As mentioned in the previous report, a longer term threat to the integrity is the increased human population in the Reserve. At the creation of the protected area, it was decided that local communities living along the Mambassa road would be allowed to stay. However, with continued immigration into the area from the densely populated highlands in the east of the country, the human settlements along the road could become a major threat and could result in serious deforestation through slash and burn agriculture. For example, the area used for agriculture in the Epulu village, where the headquarters of the Reserve is located, has increased from 359ha in 1996 to 1206ha at present.

The ICCN together with its conservation partner WCS have in the framework of the first phase of the UNESCO programme for the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties, developed a pilot programme to establish agricultural zones around the villages in the Reserve and establish a system to control immigration. Under this system, that so far was introduced in two pilot localities, Epulu and Epini/Molokay, resident populations are registered and given a residence permit. People entering the Reserve can receive a transit permit or a permit for temporary residence for a limited period of time. The scheme was developed by ICCN in close cooperation with the local and traditional authorities and was approved by provincial administrative authorities. A small financial contribution is requested for the transit and temporary permits, allowing not only the system to finance itself but also the local communities to benefit as the money is invested in local development initiatives. After the current pilot phase, it is planned to extend the scheme to the rest of the property. This extension should happen before the work on the rehabilitation of the Kisangani-Bunia

road that is currently being undertaken is finalized, as the road could significantly increase pressure.

As mentioned above, the monitoring mission to the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session, is scheduled to take place in May 2006. It is planned to present the results of the mission during the 30th session. A revised draft Decision to take into account the recommendations of the mission will also be presented. The mission will also develop together with ICCN and the conservation NGO working in the property an emergency action plan that will be implemented in the framework of the second phase of the UNESCO DRC World Heritage programme, with funding from Belgium. The action plan will support recommendations made by the monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.4, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party, in particular the Park authority ICCN and its conservation partners for the efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Expresses its concern over the continued reports on poaching and mining activities in the property, reportedly involving members of the armed forces and police as well as different government services;*
5. *Urges the State Party to launch as soon as possible a large scale operation, in collaboration with ICCN and the DRC armed forces, to*
 - a) *neutralise armed professional poachers operating in the property;*
 - b) *close down all illegal mining sites inside the property;*
 - c) *take appropriate measures to punish members from the armed forces and the police engaged in poaching activities and*
 - d) *guarantee that all relevant government agencies respect the integrity of the property;*
6. *Further urges the State Party to take measures to close down illegal trading in ivory in the urban centres around the Reserve and in Isiro, Beni, Bunia and Ariwara and to monitor these markets;*
7. *Recommends that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN contact the CITES secretariat, in order to investigate the trading networks and countries of destination of the ivory poached in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and other DRC World Heritage properties;*
8. *Requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);*

9. Calls on international donors to support the efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate the property;
10. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007 ;
11. Decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1978

Criteria:

N (iii) (iv)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1996

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Declining populations of the *Walia ibex*, Simien fox¹ and other large mammal species;
- b) Increasing human population and livestock numbers in the Park;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Road construction.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

Benchmarks for corrective measures were set at the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee (Helsinki, 2001) and reiterated at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) in Decision **28 COM 15A.4**:

- a) Realignment of the Park's boundary to exclude the villages along the boundary;
- b) Extension of the Park to include at least Mesareriya and Lemalimo Wildlife Reserves;
- c) Significant and sustainable reduction in the human population density within the Park, especially within the core area;
- d) Effective conservation within the extended National Park of a larger population of *Walia ibex* and Simien fox.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.4

29 COM 7A.5

¹ The Simien fox is also known as the Ethiopian wolf. Both names relate to the same species *Canis simensis*.

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 149,307 (for technical cooperation and training). An amount of USD 30,000 was approved in December 2005 for the development of an alternative livelihood strategy for local residents.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO/IUCN mission 2001. A joint UNESCO/IUCN mission is scheduled for 9-17 May 2006 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005).

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Declining populations of the *Walia ibex*, Simien fox and other large mammal species;
- b) Increasing human population and livestock numbers in the Park;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Road construction.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on 31 January 2006. Key points of the report with regard to the four benchmarks set by the World Heritage Committee include:

a) Realignment of the Park's boundary to exclude the villages along the boundary:

Following a consultative process with local communities, a revised Park boundary was determined and demarcated with 89 concrete beacons (a further 111 are to follow); GPS readings were completed and confirmed along the revised boundary; and a map was compiled showing the revised boundary. According to the map, Simien Mountains National Park covers now some 23,200 hectares, compared to the 13,600 hectares currently inscribed as World Heritage property.

b) Extension of the Park to include at least Mesareriya and Lemalimo Wildlife Reserves:

As previously reported, this benchmark has been achieved, and the two reserves are included in the revised Park boundary. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned about recent reports on ongoing road construction within the revised Park boundary.

c) Significant and sustainable reduction in the human population density within the Park, especially within the core area:

The Park authorities have stopped further settlement in the Park. A request by the State Party for assistance from the World Heritage Fund to develop an alternative livelihood strategy for local residents has been approved. A concrete and comprehensive project proposal for funding and implementing the strategy is expected by mid-2006. The strategy will guide the State Party in its efforts to achieve this benchmark.

*d) Effective conservation within the extended National Park of a larger population of *Walia ibex* and Simien fox:*

The *Walia ibex* population was estimated at 623 animals in November 2005 (compared to 450-530 animals in November 2004 according to an independent estimate, 579 in late 2003, and 200-250 in the mid-1990s). The Simien fox population was estimated at 71 animals in the Park and its surroundings in June 2005 (53 in late 2003). The State Party continues to

cooperate with the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme and a new project by the Frankfurt Zoological Society with a strong focus on wildlife monitoring.

The report also provides information with regard to the additional actions requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

a) Map and monitor the extent of agricultural encroachment in the Park:

In October 2005, the Park office has found 582 households (3,171 people) living in the Park, and 1,477 households living outside the Park with farmland in the Park. In total, 2,281 hectares of land in the Park are currently under cultivation. The reduction of 1,005 hectares in cultivated land compared to 1994 is, however, mainly due to the boundary realignments. Changes in cultivated land are now being monitored.

b) Restrict use of the Park by domestic livestock:

This is being addressed by attempts to progressively restrict grazing starting from the most sensitive sites and by developing and implementing alternative means for fodder production at household and community level. However, it may take some years before these measures will have a significant impact.

c) Undertake a household by household census of residents in the Park and Set up a system to monitor the human population:

This is part of the forthcoming development of an alternative livelihood strategy for residents in the Park.

d) Continue the policy of zero tolerance of domestic dogs:

This is already a customary practise and, as a result, rabies has never occurred in the Park.

e) Consider strategic extensions to the Park or its buffer zone:

This is being well considered in the draft management plan from 2002, which will be updated in 2006-2007, but further extensions will require funding for compensating residents for their relocation.

Finally, the private tourist lodge that is being constructed at Buyit Ras underwent an EIA, following a consultative process with various stakeholders. The compliance of the investor with legally agreed environmental standards is controlled on a regular basis. The World Heritage Centre and the IUCN note the need to develop a tourism planning for the property as part of the planned update of the management plan. The State Party should also consider developing a tourism master plan for the region.

No new information has been received from the State Party on the re-alignment of some portions of the Debark-Mekane rural road.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the revised boundaries of Simien Mountains National Park differ significantly from the current boundaries of the World Heritage property. Therefore it will be necessary to prepare a re-nomination of the property based on the revised boundaries. This important issue will have to be reviewed with the State Party during the monitoring mission that is planned.

A joint UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission to the property is planned for 9-17 May 2006 to assess its overall state of conservation. Its objectives are in particular to assess:

a) progress made in meeting the benchmarks;

- b) a potential removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger; and
- c) the implementation of the activities funded by the World Heritage Fund.

The final mission report and recommendations will be available for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and a revised draft Decision would be proposed to take account of the conclusions of the mission.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.4** and **29 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively;*
3. *Commends the State Party and in particular the Amhara Regional State Government for the considerable efforts made to improve the state of conservation of the Simien National Park and to meet the benchmarks set by the Committee, for its initiative to develop an alternative livelihood strategy for local residents in order to achieve a significant and sustainable reduction in the human population density within the Park, and for submitting an updated progress report;*
4. *Calls upon the international donor community to provide further financial and technical support to the State Party in order to ensure the implementation of the alternative livelihood strategy currently under preparation;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to develop and implement an updated general management plan for the Park and a tourism master plan for the region where the Park is located;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on the reported ongoing road construction project within the revised Park boundaries;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property, specifically on progress made in relation to the benchmarks set by the Committee for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
8. ***Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1991

Criteria:

N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
1992

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Political instability and civil strife

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

Benchmarks for corrective measures were identified during the 2005 IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

- a) re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to the management authority in order to allow a better control of natural resource use within the property;
- b) establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents;
- c) significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal commercial natural resource extraction issues;
- d) immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and hay from the property; and
- e) initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce corollary destabilization of soils by motorized traffic.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.6

29 COM 7A.6

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 143,250, in particular USD 108,250 for projects within the urgent rehabilitation programme and inscription of the property as a mixed property

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO mission in 1998, IUCN mission in 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Political instability and civil strife;
- b) Poverty;
- c) Management constraints;
- d) Ostrich poaching,
- e) Soil erosion;
- f) Demographic pressure;
- g) Livestock pressure; and
- h) Pressure on wood resources.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report on 23 March 2006 in the form of a periodic report (section II). This report however, provides little new information and does not refer to the benchmarks set by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) nor to the findings of the 2005 IUCN mission.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN understand, however, that there have been few changes on the ground since the monitoring mission of May 2005 but the findings and recommendations of that mission remain valid. Management of the property continues to be inadequate and illegal and uncontrolled activities such as hunting are ongoing. Nonetheless, the recent decentralization process of the government may be somewhat beneficial to the property and there is growing local interest in improving the situation, controlling hunting and managing tourism.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are pleased to note that the “Co-management of Natural Resources in Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves and adjacent areas” (COGERAT) project, noted in the State of Conservation report to the Committee in 2005, has recently been approved by the UNDP with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a total of USD 4 million over six years (2006-2012) with USD 5 million co-funding from various other donors. The project will be implemented by the “Direction de la Faune, de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture” (DFPP), possibly with the support of IUCN. In addition the Sahara Conservation Fund is currently developing a project with local NGOs to rehabilitate the ostrich population, in association with the COGERAT project.

The COGERAT project is expected to improve management of the World Heritage property and the wider Biosphere Reserve, and increase the engagement and support of local communities. IUCN notes that effective management, leadership and commitment from all partners, especially the DFPP, will be essential.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.6** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);*
3. *Regrets that the state of conservation report provided by the State Party does not respond to the specific findings and recommendations of the 2005 IUCN monitoring mission and does not provide information with regard to the benchmarks set by the Committee at its 29th session;*
4. *Commends the State Party and other partners, for the approval of the project for the “Co-management of Natural Resources in Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves and adjacent areas” (COGERAT) and encourages the implementing partners to provide effective management, leadership and commitment to ensure that the outcomes of the project have practical and long term benefits for the World Heritage property;*
5. *Urges the State Party, with the support of the COGERAT project, to implement the corrective measures in order to meet the benchmarks adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005)*

6. *Reiterates* its request to the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property, specifically on progress made in relation to the benchmarks set by the World Heritage Committee for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, along with a timeframe for their achievement, as well as on the implementation and progress of the COGERAT project, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
7. ***Decides to retain the Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

11. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)

See Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7A.Add*

ARAB STATES

12. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria:

N (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1996

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Dam construction resulting in changes in the hydrological regime, and loss of vegetation and migrating bird populations;
- b) Lack of sufficient infrastructure;
- c) Budget and management capacity.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

The World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), set the following benchmarks (**27 COM 7A.8**):

- a) The reinforcement of the management structure for the Park; in particular the creation of an autonomous and permanent management structure, that takes into consideration the specificities of Ichkeul and the sustainability of its values, with appropriate decision making powers;
- b) A guarantee in writing confirming that the State Party will consider the property as a water “consumer” and commit an annual water inflow into the lake of an average of 80-120 million cubic metres from upstream dams through water releases or overflow;
- c) The establishment of a “Committee 21” for elaborating a local Agenda 21; and
- d) Completion of a participatory management plan for the property under the GEF/World Bank funded project.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.8

28 COM 15A.9

29 COM 7A.8

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for technical assistance, training activities and emergency assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/IUCN/Ramsar mission in 1999; IUCN/Ramsar mission in 2000; and IUCN mission in 2002.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Adverse impacts of dam construction;
- b) Inadequate water flows for maintaining biological system;
- c) Inadequate management structure;
- d) No management plan.

Current conservation issues:

In a letter from the State Party dated 2 February 2006, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development notes considerable progress in the regeneration of the Ichkeul ecosystems and requests that the property be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The letter notes that the efforts of Tunisia in relation to water management and the implementation of a monitoring and research programme, combined with favourable climatic conditions, have allowed a large part of the property to recuperate the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The letter stresses that Ichkeul has been recognised as a net “consumer” of water within the “Plan Directeur des Eaux du Nord” and therefore Tunisia will ensure the annual release of a minimum amount of water required for the survival of the ecosystems. Finally, the State Party provides information on the participatory management plan that is currently being developed and on the GEF/World Bank project, which deals with three Tunisian national parks, also covering Ichkeul National Park and is planned for six years (2003-2008). The 2006 State Party report also includes the annual report of scientific monitoring for the Park for 2004-2005 prepared by ‘l’Agence Nationale de Protection de l’Environnement’ (ANPE). The report notes that in certain areas the ecosystem has returned to a state approaching that in the 1980s, and in particular that:

- a) As was the case in the 2002/2003 winter, water releases from the dams in 2004/2005 were very high (at 345 million cubic metres) and equivalent to water flow from the catchment in times prior to the dams being built;
- b) the high level of water for a long period resulted in very low levels of salinity as well as the flooding of almost the entirety of the marshes for extended periods;
- c) there is ongoing development and recovery of pondweeds (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), *Scirpus* rushes and *Phragmites* reeds, which are critical to the entire ecosystem and indicators for recovery; and
- d) a larger number of wintering water birds and nesting birds have returned, as well as fish and eels.

The report notes that the current regeneration of the ecosystem justifies the proposed management of water releases on a pluri-annual basis. It argues that variations of the environmental conditions have shaped the current ecosystem and that therefore a management which would maintain artificially the Ichkeul ecosystem in constant optimum conditions would not be consistent with the conservation objectives of the ecosystem.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the improvements of the state of conservation of this property, reflecting the third consecutive season of average or above-average rainfall with

the release water from the dams to the Park and resulting in considerable regeneration of the ecosystems of Ichkeul National Park. It is expected, now that the dams are filled, that this regeneration will continue as long as regular flows of freshwater are guaranteed. Continued monitoring is essential and this appears to be assured under the ANPE and the GEF/World Bank supported project. The State Party is commended for the very professional and detailed scientific monitoring and reporting carried out by ANPE and Tunisian university bodies to date.

The important progress in the rehabilitation of the property is acknowledged. However, the decision whether or not to take the property off the List of World Heritage in Danger should be based on the extent to which the benchmarks set by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session have been met. IUCN considers that not all benchmarks have been adequately met at this point. In particular, progress on management issues, including the creation of an autonomous and permanent management structure and the development of the participatory management plan is not yet complete. Two agencies, the ANPE and the Forestry Department, currently have a role in managing and monitoring the Park and there is a need to ensure a permanent, harmonised structure, with clear decision-making processes. The role of joint programming, monitoring of implementation and coordination is currently fulfilled by the project management team that was created for the GEF project and groups the different stakeholders. The report of the State Party notes that this structure will be continued after the end of the project to ensure implementation of the management plan of the Park. IUCN notes that appropriate management arrangements for the property, to be undertaken by the Forestry Department, are critical for the conservation of its universal values and look forward to assessing the completed management arrangements under the GEF project when these become available.

The State Party has also not yet committed to a specific amount of water flow into the Park. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that further discussion is required in relation to this specific benchmark. Following the request of the State Party to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, a joint IUCN / UNESCO mission is planned for May 2006, which will allow further discussions on this issue. The outcomes of this mission will be presented during the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), and a revised draft Decision could be proposed to take account of the conclusions.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30 COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **27 COM 7A.8**, **28 COM 15A.9** and **29 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions,*
3. *Commends the State Party for progress to date in the rehabilitation of the property and the regular scientific monitoring and reporting on this progress;*
4. *Considers that further progress is required in relation to the benchmarks to allow a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, in particular regarding the management of the property and the guaranteed release of water into the lake from the upstream dams;*

5. *Urges the State Party to engage with IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and other partners, to ensure that an adequate management structure and management plan are put in place to ensure the effective management of the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property and progress in meeting each of the benchmarks set by the Committee for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
7. *Decides to retain Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

13. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Years of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria:
N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
1992

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Bodo insurgency resulting in destruction of Park infrastructure and depletion of forest habitat and wildlife populations.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

Benchmarks for corrective measures were identified by the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) (**29 COM 7A.9**):

- a) Accelerate efforts to re-build Park infrastructure;
- b) Take prompt measures to fill vacant positions within the Park;
- c) Ensure timely release of funds to the Park, in compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling; and
- d) Undertake a comprehensive wildlife survey in the Park, which could act as a future baseline for monitoring recovery of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee or the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.10
29 COM 7A.9

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 165,000 (for purchase of equipment, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community activities).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

IUCN missions in 1992 and 2002, as well as UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Bodo insurgency 1988-2003;

- b) Forced evacuation of Park staff;
- c) Destruction of Park infrastructure;
- d) Poaching and logging;
- e) Illegal cultivation.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 31 March 2006. Key points of the report with regard to the four benchmarks set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) include:

- a) *Park infrastructure:* All possible measures have been taken to re-build Park infrastructure and, in addition, new Park infrastructure has been built including roads, bridges, buildings and a wireless system. Three range offices and two beat offices have been manned and armed;
- b) *Staffing:* The State Government has approved the proposal to fill the vacant positions within the Park. The existing staff vacancies are expected to be filled within the next 2-3 months;
- c) *Funding:* On 27 September 2005, the State Government has released a first instalment of Rs. 8 million to Manas National Park, out of a budget of Rs. 19.8 million approved by Project Tiger for the Park for the current year;
- d) *Wildlife:* The Manas tiger population numbered 65 animals in 2000 compared to 81 animals in 1993. Results from the February 2006 tiger census were not available as of April 2006. The elephant population numbered 658 animals in 2005 in the greater Chirag Ripu Elephant Reserve, of which Manas National Park constitutes the main elephant habitat, compared to 567 animals in 2002 for Manas National Park only.

In contrast to previous reports indicating that all rhinos had been wiped out during the insurgency, recent press reports indicate there might still be a fragmented population of half-a-dozen rhinos in the Park.

The State Party reports that the Assam State Government has initiated, in collaboration with the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) WWF-India, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners, the Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020, a major population and range expansion programme for rhinos in Assam. One of the objectives is to relocate rhinos into areas from which they disappeared, and Manas National Park has been identified as the top target area for receiving rhinos from Kaziranga National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

During the centenary celebrations for Manas National Park in December 2005, local Bodo communities and the Bodo Territorial Council endorsed the IRV 2020 and committed their full support to its implementation. In November 2005, the taskforce of the IRV 2020 met to review the report of its Security Expert Group which assessed improvements required in targeted protected areas to enable them to receive rhinos. Subsequently, the IRF intimated the release of USD 50,000 to WWF-India for further improvements of the infrastructure in Manas National Park to enable the rhinos to be translocated.

The security situation in Manas National Park, which once had a population of at least 100 rhinos, is now permitting the reintroduction of rhinos, initially on an experimental basis. As the first step, a 44-month-old female rhino was translocated from Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park in February 2006. The rhino was released into a fenced one-square-kilometre enclosure, is fitted with a radio collar and will be closely monitored.

It is noted that tourists – domestic as well as from abroad – are increasingly visiting Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and that the site has high potential for ecotourism. The increased involvement of local people and NGOs in the conservation and management efforts at Manas is welcomed.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);*
3. *Commends the State Party, local authorities, NGOs and Bodo Territorial Council for the considerable efforts made to improve the state of conservation of the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and to meet the benchmarks set by the Committee, and for submitting an updated progress report;*
4. *Encourages the State Party and local authorities to fully implement all recommendations of the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as soon as possible with the results of the comprehensive wildlife survey, in particular the status and trends of the tiger, rhino, elephant and swamp deer populations in the property;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property, specifically on progress made in relation to the benchmarks set by the Committee for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, along with the timeframe for their achievement, as well as progress made on implementing the recommendations of the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
7. *Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

14. Everglades (United States of America) (N 76)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1979

Criteria:

N (i)(ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1993

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Urban encroachment;
- b) Agricultural fertiliser pollution;
- c) Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife;
- d) Lowered water levels due to flood control measures;
- e) Damage from Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

In Decision **28 COM 15A.11**, the Committee invited the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in cooperation with the State Party to identify benchmarks in order to guide the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A consultative process to identify benchmarks (such as Phosphorous reduction, Completion of Structural and Operational Plan for the Modified Water Deliveries Project etc.) for corrective measures is underway. A meeting between the State Party and IUCN to discuss these benchmarks was held from 25-27 April 2006.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

A consultative process to identify a timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures is underway (see above).

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.11

29 COM 7A.10

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Urban encroachment;
- b) Agricultural fertiliser pollution;
- c) Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife;
- d) Lowered water levels due to flood control measures;
- e) Damage from Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party continues to implement the Modified Water Deliveries Project, the C-111 Project, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) adopted in 2000. CERP is the world's largest environmental restoration project and aims to re-establish natural water flows to the greater Everglades ecosystem. It will take the next 30-40 years to implement and has a currently estimated cost of USD 10.5 billion. This number does not include a separate USD 1.1 billion cleanup of pollution in the Everglades.

On 3 February 2006, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received from the State Party an updated report on the progress made in the restoration and conservation of the Everglades National Park, as well as a proposed set of steps and benchmarks. Key elements in the State Party report include:

Urban growth:

Urban encroachment on the eastern boundary of the Park has been confined within the current urban development boundary lines. But urban planners anticipate 30,000 new residents in south Miami-Dade County each year, reaching 0.6 million in 2025 and 1.2 million in 2050. The Park has continued to work with urban planners to ensure that the County's urban development boundary is not be expanded until 1) the report of the South Miami-Dade Watershed Study is completed, and 2) more is known about the requirements of key ecosystem restoration projects.

Water quantity:

The State Party reports that federal appropriations have been increased significantly from 2005 to 2006, now totalling USD 221 million for key ecosystem restoration projects for the Everglades, including USD 60 million for the Modified Water Deliveries (Mod/Water) project. In 2005-2006, some minor components of the Mod/Water project have been completed, and they have improved water management for the conservation of Cape Sable seaside sparrow and increased water flows to the Park. However, major components of the project, such as the 8.5 Square Mile Area and Tamiami Trail projects, are yet to be implemented. All necessary land acquisitions have been identified and the planned land acquisitions are substantially complete and are expected to be fully completed by 31 December 2006. The C-111 project, addressing hydrological restoration needs along the eastern boundary of the Park, includes the construction of water retention areas (1,054 acres) within the Park. To achieve the goal of no net loss of territory to the Park, a land exchange with Miami-Dade County has been completed.

Water quality:

The State Party reports considerable efforts continue to lower the phosphorous limits in water that enters the Park from agricultural and urban areas. For the Taylor Slough/Coastal Basin areas, the long-term limit has been met for the past water year. For Shark River Slough, the interim limit has been met, but the long-term limits are yet to be met. It is hoped, however, that ongoing activities and construction and operation of additional facilities on the north end of the ecosystem will result in achieving the long-term limit by 30 September 2008.

Florida Bay:

The projects mentioned above are expected to be effective in restoring and maintaining the ecological balance of Florida Bay. Meanwhile, the Park's current general management planning process is addressing concerns about numbers and impacts of boaters in Florida Bay. The Park has increased its educational, monitoring and law enforcement efforts concerning the boaters, which also appears to benefit the manatee population.

Key species:

The Cape Sable seaside sparrow population was estimated at 3,104 birds in the 2005 breeding season (3,584 in 2004; 3,216 in 2003, and 2,704 in 2002). Heavy rains in March and April are thought to be the reason for a 41% drop in wading bird nesting populations from 2004 to 2005. Of special concern was the wood stork population. The total manatee population in south Florida was estimated at 3,142 animals (2,520 in 2004), but these estimates might not be reliable indicators for real population dynamics.

Following initial consultations and the April mission with IUCN, the State Party proposes the following benchmarks, linked to four steps described in detail in the State Party report, to improve the quantity, quality, distribution, and timing of water entering the Everglades National Park:

Benchmark 1: Modified Water Deliveries Project

- 1.1) All East Everglades Land Acquisition complete (approximately 44,000 hectares)
- 1.2) Complete Water Control Plan (CSOP Final EIS) and complete 8.5 Square Mile Area Construction
- 1.3) Construction projects for the L-67A and C and L-29 water conveyance structures, Tamiami Trail Bridges, and road modifications are all underway

Benchmark 2: C-111 Project

- 2.1) Complete C-111 land exchange between the South Florida Water Management District and the US Government
- 2.2) Complete the Water Control Plan (CSOP Final EIS)
- 2.3) Complete the construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to Frog Pond

Benchmark 3: Agriculture and urban runoff phosphorous limits

- 3.1) Meet or exceed the interim and long-term phosphorous reduction limits for water flowing into Shark River Slough and the long-term phosphorous reduction limits for water flowing into the Taylor Slough/Coastal Basin areas in Everglades National Park.

Benchmark 4: Protection and management of Florida Bay

- 4.1) Complete the construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to Frog Pond and implement CSOP operations
- 4.2) Complete the C-111N Spreader Canal and revised operations

IUCN notes that these benchmarks are ecologically based and are elaborated in a detailed report (May 2006) from the State Party. IUCN believes these benchmarks will allow the Committee to clearly assess improvements in the ecological status and trends of recovery of the World Heritage property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party report shows continued, considerable efforts and investments in restoring and conserving the World Heritage property.

Various sources have emphasised that restoration is progressing very slowly. Since the adoption of CERP in 2000, most time has been spent with developing rather than implementing projects, as may be expected with a 30-40 year plan. However, completion of the Modified Water Deliveries Project will provide infrastructure that will facilitate the implementation of the longer term CERP.

From 26 to 29 January 2006, the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 45 conservation and environmental NGOs, reviewed restoration progress at its 21st annual conference. The Coalition commended the State Party for a number of steps taken, but stressed the critical importance of securing the land needed for restoration, which is threatened by urban development. Therefore, the Coalition called upon local and state governments to protect the urban development boundary in Miami-Dade County and to resist urban growth pressures in Southwest Florida. The Coalition also called upon Congress to maintain restoration momentum by authorizing in 2006 two priority restoration projects in the greater Everglades ecosystem: Indian River Lagoon-South and Picayune Strand, which will restore over 150,000 acres of wetlands.

Further recommendations of the Coalition for Everglades National Park correspond to the set of steps and benchmarks proposed by the State Party. Finally, the Coalition stresses that the long-anticipated Modified Water Deliveries and Kissimmee River projects will be completed by 2010, but only if fully funded over the next three years.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain concerned about 1) the quantity and quality of water entering the Park from the north and 2) the continued urban growth on the eastern boundary of the Park and a potential expansion of the urban development boundary. While the former issue is being addressed with great effort, and improvements are anticipated over time, both issues remain a serious challenge.

The State Party is strongly encouraged to continue its considerable commitment to the full implementation of CERP and other important activities, to ensure that urban encroachment does not adversely impact the restoration of the Everglades Ecosystem or degrade Park resources, and to continue to provide the required financial resources for the restoration and conservation of Everglades National Park. Continued monitoring and reporting will help to link the increased efforts and provision of financial resources to anticipated ecological improvements.

IUCN met with the State Party at the property for 25-27 April 2006. As a result of that meeting and viewing the projects accomplished, underway and being planned, IUCN concurs with the State Party that the identified Benchmarks represent milestones in the overall restoration planning and approval process. They will result in significant on-the-ground improvements to the ecological and hydrological health of the Everglades. IUCN agrees that the achievement of these Benchmarks will not represent restoration of the ecosystem. However, the achievement of these Benchmarks does signal significant action and commitment on the part of the State Party and this achievement should be used as key indicators by the Committee in order to facilitate the removal of the Everglades from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.11** and **29 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for the considerable efforts and investments made in the restoration and conservation of the Everglades National Park and for submitting an updated progress report;*
4. *Notes that the State party is addressing with great effort the concern of the Committee about the quantity and quality of water entering the Park from the north and the improvements are anticipated over time;*
5. *Reiterates its concern about the quantity and quality of water entering the property from the north , continued urban growth on the eastern boundary of the Park and a potential expansion of the urban development;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to continue its considerable commitment to the restoration and conservation of the property by ensuring full implementation of the Modified Water Deliveries Project, the C-111 Project, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and other important activities and by controlling urban development;*
7. *Decides that the Benchmarks identified by the State Party in consultation with IUCN will serve as a guide for the Committee and facilitate the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Progress towards this should be assessed on a regular basis;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the progress made in the restoration and conservation of the property including the progress towards achieving the Benchmarks for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
9. *Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

15. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1982

Criteria:

N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1996

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural intrusions;
- b) Illegal logging;
- c) Poaching;
- d) Invasive exotic species;
- e) Management deficiencies.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

The following benchmarks were proposed by the 2003 IUCN/UNESCO mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) (**28 COM 15A.13**):

- a) complete the compensation and relocation of the seven families and 32 land owners remaining in the core zone;
- b) cancel all Honduras Forestry Development Commission (COHDEFOR) resolutions related to dead wood harvesting in the Olancho, Colón and Atlántida departments;
- c) prevent unauthorized activities in the buffer zone, including: agricultural expansion, illegal logging and poaching, specifically by putting into operation permanent and temporary checkpoints located at critical access points;
- d) develop inter-institutional work plans that provide clear definitions of the roles and responsibilities of the various public and private entities involved in the Reserve's management; and
- e) disseminate the environmental management plans related to the Ministry of Agriculture's development strategy within the Sico'Paulaya Valley zone.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15A.13

29 COM 7A.12

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 190,025 for technical cooperation and training

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 60,000 within the framework of the IUCN/UNF/UNESCO “Enhancing our Heritage” Project

Previous monitoring missions:

IUCN missions in 1995 and 2000; UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2003

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural intrusions;
- b) Illegal logging;
- c) Poaching;
- d) Invasive exotic species;
- e) Management deficiencies;
- f) Potential impacts from hydroelectric development project Patuca II.

Current conservation issues:

At the time of preparation of this document, the report requested by the Committee by Decision **29 COM 7A.12** had not been received from the State Party of Honduras.

The IUCN/UNF/UNESCO Enhancing our Heritage Project (EoH), which includes Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve as a pilot site, reported in 2005 the completion of a revised assessment of the values and management problems confronting the property as well as initiation of monitoring programmes focussed on developing management targets to address existing conservation issues. Two staff members have been appointed by the Minister of the Environment of Honduras to support implementation of monitoring programmes using EoH project funding.

IUCN continues to receive reports on continued illegal logging and poaching occurring within the Park boundaries. The southern and western zones of the Reserve are subject to massive illegal extraction of precious wood such as Caoba (*Swietenia macrophylla*). This problem has been addressed in the report “The illegal logging crisis in Honduras” (available at www.eia-international.org) prepared by the Environmental Investigation Agency with the support of the Centre for International Policy. The report notes that illegal logging is still a serious conservation issue in the Park, impacting its rich wildlife. The report also notes that the illegal activity has extended into the core areas of the Park.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned with the continued degradation of the Biosphere Reserve buffer zone. Large areas of the buffer zone, particularly in the Rio Seco watershed to the north and east of the core zone, have been totally degraded by cattle ranching. Although the buffer zone is not included in the World Heritage property, its ongoing degradation might affect the integrity of the property

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions 28 COM 15A.13 and 29 COM 7A.12, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions respectively,

3. *Regrets that no report was provided by the State Party on the progress made in relation to the benchmarks set by the Committee for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the implementation of the recommendations of the joint 2003 UNESCO/IUCN mission, as requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005);*
4. *Expresses its utmost concern about reports on continued illegal logging in the property;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement without further delay all corrective measures in order to meet the benchmarks set by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
6. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and in particular progress made in meeting the benchmarks set by the Committee and implementing the remaining recommendations of the joint 2003 UNESCO/IUCN mission;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** on the state of conservation of the property, specifically on progress made in relation to the benchmarks set by the Committee for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, along with a timeframe for their achievement, as well as progress made on the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the joint 2003 UNESCO/IUCN mission, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
8. ***Decides to retain the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

16. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1985

Criteria:

C (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1985

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Serious state of deterioration of the palaces in the aftermath of the 1984 tornado;
- b) Restoration without respect for the authenticity of the materials, volumes and colours.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

- a) Finalize the national legislative and administrative system for the protection of the cultural heritage of Benin;
- b) Create new boundaries for the property and clearly indicate the buffer zone for the protection of its integrity;
- c) Evaluate and update the property's conservation and management plan, continue the restoration and conservation actions for the treatment of at least half of the structural elements of the property which are still considered to be gravely deteriorated.

Timetable for the implementation of corrective measures:

2006:

- a) Finalize the national legislative and administrative system for the protection of the cultural heritage of Benin;
- b) Create new boundaries for the property and clearly indicate the buffer zone for the protection of its integrity;
- c) Evaluate the property's conservation and management plan,

2007:

- a) Update the property's conservation and management plan,
- b) Continue the restoration and conservation actions for the treatment of at least half of the structural elements of the property which are still considered to be gravely deteriorated.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.15

28 COM 15A.14

29 COM 7A.13

International Assistance:

Total amount allocated to the property: In 2000, USD 40,000 for technical cooperation and USD 20,000 for training activities. In 2005, USD 17,000 for technical cooperation to implement an action plan defined by the Committee in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**.

UNESCO Extrabudgetary Funds:

Total amount allocated to the property: In 1998, USD 400,000 were granted by the Japanese Government for the restoration of the Behanzin Palace. In 2005, USD 25,000 were granted by Riksantikvaren (Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage) for the implementation of an action plan defined in Decision **28 COM 15A.14**.

Previous monitoring missions:

2004: Joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission; 2006: World Heritage Centre/CRATerre-ENSAG/Getty Conservation Institute monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) No national legislative system for the protection of cultural heritage;
- b) No delimitation and protection measures for the buffer zone;
- c) Management plan not yet updated;
- d) Grave degradation of nearly two thirds of the mud brick buildings.

Current conservation issues:

Since October 2004, the State Party has initiated a series of activities, as foreseen in the framework of the action plan defined by the Committee in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**, to enable the Committee to consider the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007. The action plan defined by the Committee focuses on the implementation of three major activities (a) the creation of a national system for the protection of cultural heritage; (b) the establishment of a buffer zone around the property; (c) the evaluation and updating of the management plan and; (d) the continuation of the conservation activities to safeguard the remaining original vestiges of mud brick constructions.

In September 2005, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee granted financial assistance of USD 17,298 to the State Party. The amount was earmarked for the following activities:

- a) the production of technical documents for the promulgation of a municipal decree concerning the buffer zone of the site;
- b) the purchase of computer equipment to improve the administrative and financial management of the site;
- c) the organisation of a technical mission of international experts to evaluate the previous management plan, to make recommendations for the new plan, and to draw up a strategic plan for the conservation of the mud brick structures still standing.

From 12 to 18 February 2006, a technical mission of experts from the World Heritage Centre, the Centre international de construction en terre (CRATerre-ENSAG) and the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) visited Benin to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the action plan. The mission made the following observations:

a) Legal framework:

A draft law for the protection of cultural and natural heritage specifically pertaining to the culture of Benin was transmitted to the President of the Republic on 31 October 2005, for examination by the National Assembly.

b) Creation of a buffer zone:

Delimitation with three main zones and regulations adapted to each of the zones has been elaborated. Prior to its validation by municipal decree, all concerned parties are being informed and consulted. A mechanism to monitor the application of urban regulations is also on the verge of being set up.

c) Evaluation of the 1999 Management Plan:

Even if significant progress has been made in the management system of the site (existence of a management board, financial control, creation of an accountant position, mobilisation of financial resources for conservation work), proving a true and visible national capacity for intervention, this concerns only a limited part of the site (one third of the site). Technical solutions still remain to be found for restorations, to make them longer lasting. At the same time, degradation continues on the remaining two thirds of the property, and certain components are at great risk, such as the Kpengla and Houegbadja Palaces. Finally, major orientations for the future management plan (2007-2012), the drafting of which should begin in June 2006, have already been identified. They concern in particular: (i) strengthening of capacities for particular actions; (ii) improvement of the preventive conservation measures and restoration procedures; (iii) improvement of the presentation and interpretation of the site.

d) Work to eliminate threats to the structures (short- and medium-term)

The most significant structures, essential to the recognition of the universal value of the Royal Palaces of Abomey, have been jointly identified by the experts and the Benin authorities. Urgent intervention should be recommended for them. In order to comply with the Committee's action plan, clear priorities have been identified for the following palaces: Agoli Agbo Palace, Kpengla Palace, Agadja Palace, Houégbadja Palace, Akaba Palace, and Dossèmè Quarter.

Finally, the mission recommended that ICOMOS undertake a mission in 2007 to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Committee's action plan, in order to make recommendations for the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.13, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the efforts made concerning the establishment of a national cultural heritage law, the obtention of a property title for the site, the delimitation of a buffer zone around the property and for the management system of the site;*

4. *Encourages* the State Party to pursue the implementation of the action plan and the work to eliminate threats to the structures;
5. *Requests* ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to undertake a mission to evaluate the implementation of the action plan and to make recommendations to the Committee for the removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to report on this to the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
6. *Decides* to maintain the Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**17. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)
(C 144)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria:

C (iii)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2004

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Continuing deterioration and serious threats affecting the property

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

- a) Updating of the statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
- b) Effective implementation of the site management plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

To be identified.

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 15B.41

29 COM 7A.15

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: Technical co-operation (USD 24,320 in 2002) for the preparation of a management plan and extension of the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: Support from the French, Japanese, UNESCO project (USD 1,438,000) and Norwegian Funds-in-Trust provides support for UNESCO rehabilitation project (USD 201,390)

Previous monitoring missions:

ICOMOS mission 23 to 27 February 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Ruins damaged by sea erosion;
- b) Collapsing monuments;
- c) Lack of clear boundary of property and buffer zone;
- d) Population pressure; no participation of community;
- e) Unclear management systems leading to inactivity;
- f) Old legal framework.

Current Conservation issues:

During its 29th session, the World Heritage Committee commended the State Party for the efforts undertaken to establish a Management and Conservation Plan and a Tourism Master Plan for the site, and invited the State Party to submit the final document related to these initiatives, and to implement these. The Committee noted with appreciation the continued support provided by the Governments of France and Japan to address problems facing this property. The Committee requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, a report on the state of conservation of the property including follow up action on the recommendations of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006, and decided to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In 2005, promotional materials have been produced including full colour brochures entitled 'Kilwa Kisiwani, An Overview of Its Cultural Heritage'; 'Songo Mnara, An Overview of Its Cultural Heritage'; 'Kilwa Kivinje, An Overview of Its Cultural Heritage'; 'Kilwa Kisiwani, Ancient port City of the East African Coast'. An 89 page well illustrated publication 'Kilwa Kisiwani, Ancient Port City of the East African Coast' by Karen Moon, for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, also produced in 2005.

With financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund, an enamelled sand stone sign was prepared for the Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara property written both in English and Swahili.

The World Heritage Centre notes that the State Party is putting significant effort into the conservation, proper management and sustainable development of the site. This involves the local community as well as the international donor community.

The Government of Norway is financing a project amounting to USD 201,390 entitled "Emergency Conservation of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara Endangered World Heritage Sites". This is implemented by the UNESCO Office in Dar es Salaam. The conservation project, which started in September 2005, is divided into four phases and will essentially entail emergency conservation work at the sites of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, as well as help train and build capacity of national conservation practitioners.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have received from the Tanzanian Department of Antiquities in December 2005 and March 2006 the following documents. One, a Site Management Plan (dated January 2006). Two, the Kilwa Tourism Master Plan (March 2005) together with other promotional materials and finally, the draft of "Revised nomination file for the World Heritage Sites of the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, including the historical town of Kilwa Kivinje". A further report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage Property was received on 1 March 2006.

The site management plan provides an excellent overview of property history, state of conservation of component sites, management issues and proposals to reconsider boundaries and inclusion of nearby related sites. The management plan articulates clear strategic objectives and is built around a statement of significance for the property. It is worth highlighting the extensive community and stakeholder consultation approach used in developing the plan. This plan parallels and complements the Tourism Plan first submitted as a draft in March 2005. The Tourism Master Plan is comprehensive and its approach and conclusions are well integrated with the approach to management defined in the property management plan

The State Party report of State of Conservation begins by presenting the statement of significance (as defined within the property management plans) and comments concerning integrity/ authenticity. The report describes conditions, issues and problems in many areas of the site. The report also describes various planning and management tools in place to protect and conserve the property, various social and economic pressures affecting the property and monitoring measures in place.

ICOMOS, in its review of these various management reports, tools and initiatives, finds the property management plan well conceived and executed. However, ICOMOS is disappointed that the State Party's state of conservation report (January 2006) does not address how the management plan is to be implemented and to integrate the many other parallel planning and management procedures and tools already in place.

ICOMOS also notes that the defined aim of the management plan is to "guarantee the proper application of conservation and management approaches that would ensure that the World Heritage Site of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara is rationalised to include the historic town of Kilwa Kivinje". However, the State Party's State of Conservation report does not comment on the intention to extend the nomination. Moreover, the State Party SOC report does reproduce the statement of significance from the management plan which recognizes the extension (to include Kilwa Kivinje) as a part of the property to be managed. ICOMOS further notes that the Committee in its 28th and 29th session did not comment directly on the proposed extension, except to request the State Party to respond to the recommendations of the 2004 ICOMOS mission, which focused on the need - among others - to extend the original nomination to include Kilwa Kivinje.

ICOMOS would also like to draw the Committee's attention to the work carried out on preparing a statement of significance in the management plan, and the long section in the State Party's SOC report on integrity/ authenticity. While these efforts place concern for significance at the centre of management decision-making and are very much welcome, ICOMOS notes that the statement of significance prepared ranges beyond the single criterion (number iii) under which the property was inscribed. ICOMOS also notes that the treatment of significance, authenticity and integrity derive from the previous version of the *Operational Guidelines*, and are not prepared in accord with the requirement of the *Operational Guidelines* in effect since February 2005.

Accordingly, ICOMOS supports the wisdom of developing a management mechanism which addresses the integrated totality of the territory (including Kilwa Kivinje) but stresses the importance of the State party signalling its intention to extend the inscription to do so as a part of the process, so that the Committee can be made aware of this approach.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts made in 2005 to complete the property management plan and to continue to strengthen measures for the protection of the property;
4. Notes with great concern that the State Party's State of Conservation report submitted 30 January 2006, does not make more than brief mention of the recently developed management plan, without defining corrective measures for implementation as the guiding instrument intended to ensure a long term and integrated approach towards the management of the property;
5. Notes that the site management plan section dealing with significance, and the related sections in the State Party's State of Conservation report dealing with integrity/authenticity reflect significance beyond that recognized in the inscription of the site under criterion (iii), and are not in conformity with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines concerning expression of Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity, and suggests that the State Party modify these sections of the management plan and report to the Committee accordingly;
6. Notes that the management plan prepared for the property encompasses a wider area than that inscribed (in line with the recommendations of the 2004 ICOMOS mission) and invites the State Party to signal its intention to the Committee to propose an extension to the original nomination to include those areas addressed by management plan including Kilwa Kivinje, in order to fully integrate the earlier ruins inscribed with the associated living towns, and to consider whether additional criteria may be necessary to fully capture the Outstanding Universal Value of a larger property;
7. Regrets that the State Party State of Conservation report did not address the recommendations of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, a report on the state of conservation of the property including the following information, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session:
 - a) follow-up action on the recommendations of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004;
 - b) actions taken to update the property's statement of significance and integrity/authenticity assessment according to the current requirements of the Operational Guidelines, and the need to focus expression of significance on the criterion recognized by inscription;
 - c) full and effective implementation of the property management plan of January 2006;

- d) *clarification of its intention to submit an extension to the presently inscribed World Heritage property and possibly to submit associated revised criteria.*
9. ***Decides to retain the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ARAB STATES

18. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1982

Criteria:
C (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
2002

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Deterioration of the archaeological vestiges;
- b) Anthropic deterioration resulting from acts of vandalism (destruction, theft, waste dumping, etc);
- c) Unsuitable restoration techniques;
- d) Growing urbanisation on the outskirts of the site and the buffer zone;
- e) Frequent property disputes with the owners or the public and private operators, and housing construction within the site;
- f) Natural degradation due to sea salt, shoreline and wind erosion, and uncontrolled vegetation;
- g) Inadequate conservation services in terms of qualified personnel, material and financial resources.

(Decision **26 COM 21 (b) 34**)

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

[as defined by the reactive follow-up mission in March 2006]

- a) Delimitation of the official boundaries of the inscribed zones and the buffer zone based on the new cadastral survey;
- b) Relocation of the squatter families within the listed perimeter;
- c) Strengthening of human and financial resources;
- d) Elaboration and implementation of the protection plan (PPMVSAZP);
- e) Elaboration of a site management plan.

Timetable for the implementation of these corrective measures:

The local and national authorities informed the March 2006 mission that all of these actions would be initiated in 2006. Although a timetable has yet to be determined, it was estimated that all of these operations would take approximately two years.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.17

28 COM 15A.16

29COM 7A.16

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 91,731 (through 2005) for emergency assistance, technical cooperation and training.

UNESCO Extrabudgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 9,564 from Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions:

Mission of two World Heritage Centre experts in February 2002, then an additional World Heritage Centre mission in September 2002 ; a World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission from 3 to 9 March 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

Some threats, identified in previous reports, have since been mitigated. Others remain, but should be resolved thanks to a new urban policy, and management tools and measures already in place or being elaborated.

- a) Slow natural deterioration due to shore line and wind erosion, and sea salt ;
- b) Deterioration of the gullies of the rock, bed of a former wadi, where waste water runs in an open sewer, crossing the property due to lack of a sanitation network, and in which garbage is being dumped;
- c) Presence of a number of constructions within the perimeter of the listed zones ;
- d) Inadequate services responsible for conservation of the site.

Current conservation issues:

In February 2002, a World Heritage Centre mission observed that most of the vestiges were in a fragile or dangerous state of conservation. The mission mentioned in particular alarming acts of vandalism, (destruction, theft, waste dumping, etc.), growing urbanisation near the site, frequent property disputes with the owners or the public and private operators, natural degradation due to sea salt, shore line and wind erosion, and uncontrolled vegetation. The Committee expressed its grave concern over this situation, incompatible with the maintenance of the outstanding universal value of the property that had justified its inscription on the World Heritage List. Consequently, the Committee inscribed the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2002 and invited the World Heritage Centre to send a new mission to identify safeguarding measures and actions required to mitigate the risks affecting the integrity of the property and its buffer zone. The Committee also recommended that the Centre assist the State Party in the preparation of a remedial plan, including visitor management and public awareness raising, uniting the site with its environment.

During its 27th session in 2003, and following an additional mission, the World Heritage Committee recommended:

- a) the immediate delimitation of the official perimeter of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone, based on existing archaeological studies, and the publication of a temporary official decree blocking all construction within these boundaries;
- b) the elaboration of a plan and timetable for the relocation beyond the boundaries of the property, of the 100 families presently living on the site;
- c) strengthening of human and financial resources of the Local Inspection;
- d) urgent preventive conservation measures for the mosaics and other exposed elements, as well as more effective visitor control;

- e) the application of the 1998 Law and the preparation and rapid implementation of the Safeguarding and Presentation Plan, in consultation with the Centre, to replace the present urban instruments; as well as
- f) the preparation of a Management Plan in conformity with the guidelines provided in the technical reports drafted by the Centre's consultants in 2002.

The Committee examined the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations during its 28th and 29th sessions in 2004 and 2005. It recommended that an additional World Heritage Centre – ICOMOS mission be dispatched to consider the possibility of removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session in 2006.

The State Party transmitted a report dated 28 January 2006 informing the World Heritage Committee of the measures undertaken by the Algerian Government following the In-Danger status of the site, in the framework of a joint procedure implemented by the Ministry of Culture and the Wilaya of Tipasa. The report also covered the recent (December 2005) reorganisation of the Cultural Heritage Sector, concerning the creation of a Management and Cultural Properties Exploitation Office (OGBC), a public establishment of industrial and commercial character (EPIC) under the auspices of the Ministry for Culture, and a National Centre for Archaeological Research, a public establishment of scientific and technological nature. This Office is placed under the double umbrella of the Ministry for Culture and the Ministry for Higher Education and Research. Moreover, the sectors of Public Authority and Conservation of Cultural Properties have been transferred to the Culture Directorates of the Wilayas. The creation of a National Centre for the Restoration of Cultural Property was also foreseen.

As concerns the site of Tipasa, the report mentioned the implementation of a Plan for the Protection and Presentation of the Archaeological Site of Tipasa and its Buffer Zone. It also referred to a call for bids for the elaboration of the study for this Plan, already announced in the report presented by the State Party in 2005. Mention was further made of a request for international assistance (recommended by Decision **29 COM 7A.16**, paragraph 6), never submitted by the State Party for financing under the World Heritage Fund.

As requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session, the State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS mission, to study the possibility of removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

The joint mission observed that the new political situation, a remodelled legal framework, revised regulatory and urban management tools, decentralization of State services and the reorganisation of the Heritage Services had radically modified the 1992 situation (which had worsened between 1992 and 1999) and the conditions which had led to the request for In-Danger listing. Financial commitments made by Algeria indicated its will to integrate heritage protection in the general planning issues and its concern with finding sustainable solutions rather than timely responses to the different problems raised. Substantial investments have already been made or foreseen, such as repair work to the access road, reorganisation of the parking areas, creation of a welcome and information centre in the Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania, and creation of a separate sewer system, and the water purification and collection stations in Tipasa. Studies have also been financed and are being carried out such as the establishment of a cadastral plan, a Plan for the Protection and Presentation of the Archaeological Site and its Buffer Zone (PPMVSAZP), and the revision of the PDAU of Tipasa.

In accordance with the calendar and time constraints of the country's legislative process (finance laws, construction authorisations, loan applications...), the authorities representing the State are committed to implementing solutions in accordance with the Committee's recommendations (Decision **28 COM 15A.16**):

- a) Delimitation of the official perimeter to be officially established, based on the new cadastral plan.
- b) The Wali of Tipasa has committed to a timetable and a relocation plan for the families installed within the site to be finalised before the end of 2006.
- c) Strengthening of human and financial resources, other than recent recruitment, will be defined by the newly created OGBC.
- d) In addition, the OGBC, presently in charge of the site management, will undertake precise measures for the protection of the remaining in-situ mosaics.
- e) Recent decrees legally establish the Protection Plan (PPMVSAZP), which is in the process of being implemented; its effects vis-à-vis third parties and its substitution to the POS in the "buffer zone" will be thus defined. Moreover, the official consultation of the Curator, who is now responsible to the Director of Culture of the Wilaya, is henceforth necessary for any operation on the site.
- f) A site management plan is being prepared by the OGBC.

On 9 April 2006, following the reactive monitoring mission, the Algerian Minister of Culture sent a letter to the Director-General of UNESCO, mentioning the policy of de-densification and displacement of the urban centre of Tipasa in the framework of an integrated programme for the protection of the shoreline. This letter also included the elements presented in the State Party's report concerning the reforms undertaken for the management and preservation of the cultural heritage.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party on the measures taken and the actions engaged to improve the protection of the site, notably in the institutional, legal and management fields;*
4. *Urgently requests the State Party to make strong commitments, including the establishment of an action plan with a strict calendar, for the completion of the work in progress and the implementation of longer-term projects, in particular:*
 - a) *Delimitation of an official perimeter for the inscribed sectors and the buffer zone based on the new cadastral plan;*
 - b) *Relocation procedure for the families illicitly installed within the perimeter of the property;*
 - c) *Strengthening of human and financial resources;*

- d) *Realisation and application of the Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMVSAZP);*
 - e) *Elaboration of a management plan for the site;*
5. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007, a report on progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session, in 2007 ;*
6. ***Decides to retain Tipasa (Algeria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

19. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1979

Criterion:

C (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the World Heritage List in Danger:

2001

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism, for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table;
 - b) The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the city, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the town;
 - c) A large, banked road was built to enable movement within the site.
- (see Document *WHC-01/CONF.208/4*)

The Committee decided the inscription of Abu Mena on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and requested the Egyptian authorities to co-ordinate with all the competent national institutions, and the World Heritage Centre, with a view to rapidly identifying the necessary corrective measures to ensure the safeguarding of the site.

(see Document *WHC-01/CONF.208/24*)

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

[As identified by the November 2005 mission]

- a) Carry out a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures during the vibration and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- b) Establish the definitive boundaries of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone;
- c) Carry out a geophysical survey over the entire site (including the buffer zone);
- d) Lower the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area;
- e) Establish an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones;

- f) Prepare a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);
- g) Undertake consultations with stakeholders with the objective of preparing a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

Following the November 2005 mission, the State Party is to propose a time-table for the work to be undertaken. The completion of the lowering of the water table is expected in about three years. The survey and urgent consolidation measures should be carried out immediately, prior to the heavy drainage works. All the benchmarks should be reached **by the end of 2009**.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.18

28 COM 15A.17

29 COM 7A.17

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 14,000 for technical cooperation

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

September 2002: expert hydrologist; November 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Raising groundwater level
- b) Lack of consolidation, engineering and management measures

Current conservation issues:

At its 29th Session in 2005, the Committee urged the State Party to adopt long-term and sustainable measures with all the concerned national institutions, and to invite a joint mission of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to:

- a) assess the situation of the property, both in terms of the state of conservation of the archaeological remains and in terms of the hydrological issue;
- b) evaluate the loss of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and of its integrity;
- c) review the proposed project;
- d) determine the necessary steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, including the setting up of benchmarks with a time frame for their fulfilment, the establishment of an emergency plan while the project was taking place, and the formulation of proposals for a buffer zone ; and
- e) provision of the necessary elements to orient the Committee for recommending a programme of corrective measures.

The joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission visited the property in November 2005. The mission noted that:

Engineering aspects

Protecting the site from rising groundwater requires the lowering of the water table that is at the present time rising as a result of intensive irrigation in the nearby areas, supplied by the main canals coming from the Nile. The water table should be lowered at least 5 metres. The Egyptian Ministry of Culture has developed a project, aimed at lowering the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area. Completion is expected in about three years. The project is well designed and promises to be effective (work on the project began in December 2005). The operating conditions should be considered along with more general aspects of the management of water resources in a very large area of Egypt.

Economic and political aspects must be considered because a large amount of financial resources will be required, not only in the implementation phase, but also in the long-term working conditions. Moreover, the projects will succeed only if the farmers involved ensure their active participation, while all the state and regional authorities responsible for water management and irrigation also confirm their cooperation.

An efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones is essential, as its level will remain the most significant variable for assessing the effectiveness of the solution to the problem.

Archaeological aspects

Three preliminary tasks must be undertaken as quickly as possible:

- a) A geophysical survey must be elaborated, concentrating in the beginning on areas where it is planned to undertake earth-moving operations connected with the measures to be taken to lower the water table on the site, and before this work has been started;
- b) A rapid condition survey of all excavated remains should be carried out and urgent conservation undertaken in order to provide protection to structures during the vibration and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- c) Discussions must take place simultaneously with these emergency actions in order to establish the definitive boundaries of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone.

Once these emergency activities have been successfully completed, the geophysical survey should continue over the entire site (including the buffer zone), to act as a guide to future research and management projects. At the same time, a conservation plan should be prepared, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc).

Discussions should begin with stakeholders with the objective of preparing a management plan, to include research (including excavation and site survey), presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

As regards paragraph 6.a) of Decision **29 COM 7A.17**, related to a possible loss of the outstanding universal value of the property and of its integrity, the mission clearly indicated in its report that “there can be no question of the characteristics for which Abu Mena was originally inscribed having been lost: within the broad justification used in 1979, which characterizes it as ‘an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in human history’, nothing has been irretrievably lost and, indeed, much more has been learned about the site from excavations over the past two decades. Moreover, should the Committee consider the possibility of applying criterion (vi) to Abu Mena, the case for removing it from the World Heritage List on the grounds of loss of outstanding universal

value would be further weakened. So far as loss of integrity is concerned, the case is somewhat stronger, though not sufficient to justify removal from the List”.

Further to the reactive monitoring mission, four undated reports were submitted by the State Party in February 2006, in Arabic with attached translations or summaries, and technical maps exclusively in Arabic, thus impossible to assess. Three of these reports are related to hydrological issues, while the fourth is a short description of the site and an overall presentation of the programme of archeological studies to be carried out along with the engineering work related to the lowering of the water table. These studies will mainly consist of: architectural survey, soil mechanics study, chemical analysis, monitoring the state of degradation/conservation, recording the structures and preparing detailed restoration projects, designing a site museum, etc.

However, while it is estimated that the hydrology project will last for three years, there is no established timetable for the conservation, restoration and presentation process which will therefore need to be rediscussed with the concerned authorities in order to determine a precisely scheduled work plan to reach the benchmarks identified. This should be achieved more or less within the same time frame, which is before the end of 2009.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.17 adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for its efforts in addressing the issue of the rising ground water table;*
4. *Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission of 2005:*
 - a) *Carry out a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures during the vibration and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;*
 - b) *Establish the definitive boundaries of the World Heritage site and its buffer zone;*
 - c) *Carry out a geophysical survey over the entire site (including the buffer zone);*
 - d) *Lower the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area;*
 - e) *Establish an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones;*
 - f) *Prepare a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);*

- g) *Undertake consultations with stakeholders with the objective of preparing a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.*
5. *Requests the State Party to define urgently the boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone and to provide a map to the World Heritage Centre;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2007, a detailed progress report for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
7. ***Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

20. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2003

Criteria:
C (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
2003

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage;
- b) State of war in the country.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

As identified in Decision **27 COM 8C.45**:

- a) Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
- b) Emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;
- c) Establishment of a local management coordination unit on the site;
- d) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
- e) Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 8C.45

27 COM 8C.46

28 COM 15A.18

29 COM 7A.18

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 approved in 2003 for emergency assistance (USD 5,000 disbursed, the remaining turned back to the World Heritage Fund)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

NB: Extra-budgetary funding is allocated to cultural heritage preservation in Iraq, if not specifically for the site of Ashur (equipment, training, etc.).

Previous monitoring missions:

November 2002

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project;
- b) Fragile mud brick structures;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

Current conservation issues:

As reported at the 28th session of the Committee, a preliminary work plan for an assessment mission to the site was prepared in order to develop an emergency conservation plan and the basis for a management plan of the site. However, the implementation of this activity had to be delayed, due to current security concerns.

Information was provided to the World Heritage Centre on the telephone and by e-mail by the Chairman of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. He assured that the building of the dam which had justified the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger had been cancelled and that the property was well kept and no longer required to be on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, it was not possible to prepare, as requested by the Committee at its 29th session, a conservation and management plan for the site or to establish the management unit on the ground.

Within the overall context of the international assistance to Iraq, UNESCO has developed a large programme for cultural heritage preservation, to which the World Heritage Centre participates actively. Thanks to a donation from the Czech Republic to the World Heritage Fund, USD 30,000 was utilised to purchase photogrammetric equipment. In addition, a USD 100,000 grant was allocated by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation. The latter grant allowed the World Heritage Centre to organize a training workshop in Amman, Jordan, in September 2004, in order to introduce ten Iraqi specialists to the concepts and procedures of the *Convention*. Two additional workshops took place in June and September 2005, in Amman and in Paris, to train thoroughly four Iraqi experts from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in view of developing a complete nomination file for the archaeological city of Samarra. This nomination file was submitted in January 2006.

Despite the cancellation of the dam project and the assurances of the State Party that no specific action threatens the archaeological remains, the Committee might, however, in the light of the situation prevailing in Iraq, choose to maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 29 COM 75A.18 adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),

3. *Notes with great concern the present situation in Iraq and regrets, amongst others, the obstacle it represents in the implementation of safeguarding activities;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to establish, as early as possible, a site management coordination unit, which will be responsible for any action to be undertaken on the property;*
5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to continue assisting the responsible Iraqi authorities in the development of a comprehensive Conservation and Management plan for the property;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to initiate the preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan for the property, possibly through an International Assistance Request, and, should it be possible, with international expertise, and to present a progress report to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007 for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
7. ***Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

21. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1993

Criteria:

C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2000

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Serious deterioration of the built-up heritage (40% of the residential houses being replaced by compact cement and multi-storey buildings);
- b) The remains of the houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- c) Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- d) The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- e) The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

By reviewing all these elements, it was recognized that the situation of the city corresponds to the following criteria of danger as identified in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 179: Ascertained danger: (ii), (iii) and (iv) and Potential danger: (ii) and (iii).

Therefore, the Committee decided to inscribe the Historic City of Zabid on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

(see Documents WHC-2000/CONF.203-5 and WHC-2000/CONF.204-21)

Benchmarks for the implementation of corrective measures:

As identified by previous reports and Committee Decisions:

- a) Stopping the illegal constructions and clamping down on major building violations, mostly in public spaces, to re-design the original urban pattern;
- b) Carrying out the inventory of the buildings of the historic town;
- c) Completing the urban conservation plan, and the socio-economic revitalization action plan;
- d) Ensuring the adoption and implementation of the urban regulations for the historic core.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

To be discussed with the State Party, preferably within the next two years.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.20

28 COM 15A.20

29 COM 7A.19

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 121,918 for 2001-2004.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,200 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions:

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre.

Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s):

Serious deterioration of the city's heritage. In particular, around 40% of the city's houses were replaced by concrete buildings, and many other houses and the ancient souq are in a deteriorating state. Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30 % of these built-up.

Current conservation issue(s):

A Report on the State of Conservation of the Historic Town of Zabid, prepared by the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), was received by the World Heritage Centre in February 2006 and officially transmitted on 3 April 2006. The report provides an overview of progress made in meeting the recommendations made by the Committee during its review of the state of conservation of the historic city last year. The State Party report notes that "violations" of the historic fabric have diminished, and it documents progress made in achieving tangible results in a number of project areas, including installation of a furnace for traditional bricks, removal of 19 building violations, completion of a sewage treatment plan (not yet operational), restoration of the Bab El-Qurtub Gate, rescue and consolidation of the Al-Ashaer Mosque, and restoration of the Citadel.

The report also notes that a number of initiatives and projects await funding for completion, including the urban conservation plan, a socio-economic revitalization scheme (requested by the Committee at its 29th session), an improved street water drainage system necessary for operation of the sewage treatment plant, full restoration of both the Al-Ashaer Mosque and the historic souq, as well as a street lighting scheme.

The report also underlines the need of increasing international assistance made available to Zabid as a critical component of current conservation efforts and that the State Party will be requesting international assistance from the World Heritage Fund in a number of areas. Prior to any request, it is suggested that a reactive monitoring mission be undertaken to review progress and consider the scope and extent of work needed, as well as the impact of the deterioration process on the integrity and authenticity of the property, and discuss possible benchmarks for corrective measures.

While international assistance can be useful when directed to projects for which local resources may be inadequate, the dependence on such assistance can be counter-productive in terms of fostering the long term sustainability at the local level, necessary for effective conservation efforts.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.19, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the numerous efforts made to improve the state of conservation of the property, including efforts to reduce the numbers of violations of historic fabric occurring, to remove past violations, to support the production of traditional materials;*
4. *Notes with great concern that the main recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session - notably the completion of an urban conservation plan, and a socio-economic revitalization action plan - have not been implemented;*
5. *Regrets that the Committee's recommendation to integrate the urban regulations drafted for the historic core within the Urban Development Plan has not yet been addressed by the State Party;*
6. *Urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *Continue its efforts to monitor and prevent future violations, and to remove existing violations in the open spaces,*
 - b) *Complete the urban conservation plan to be integrated in the Urban Development Plan together with the urban regulations, and*
 - c) *Prepare the socio-economic revitalization action plan;*
7. *Recommends that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and to agree on appropriate benchmarks;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2007**, a report on the progress made on the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*

9. **Decides to retain the Historic town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

22. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2002

Criteria:

C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2002

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Lack of legal protection;
- b) Lack of an effective monuments protection agency;
- c) Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel;
- d) Lack of a comprehensive management plan.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

To be identified. A joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission shall be fielded in order to determine whether the site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. If this is not considered possible, the criteria and timeframe for the possible removal of the property from the List shall be defined in close co-operation with the State Party (see draft Decision, paragraph 8).

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.21

27 COM 8B.2

28 COM 15A.21

29 COM 7A.20

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: In 2003, USD 100,000 for Emergency Assistance for the enhanced conservation and management of the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 800,000 have been provided by the Government of Italy for the “Emergency Consolidation and Restoration of the Minaret of Jam and Monuments in Herat” and USD 138,000 by the Government of Switzerland for the “Emergency Consolidation and Restoration of the Minaret of Jam”. These projects are currently being implemented.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO Experts-Division of Cultural Heritage mission in May/June and October 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Political instability;
- b) Inclination of Minaret;
- c) Local infrastructural requirements;
- d) Lack of management plan.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a progress report by the State Party on 31 March 2006 in which it stated that following the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session, the State Party has halted the construction of a road at the site. Furthermore, the State Party intends to implement the Herat-Chaghcharan road construction project according to UNESCO's advice in 2005 and in line with the Decision **29 COM 7A.20** adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2005, as well as national legislation. Since the proposed new itinerary of the road remains at a distance of 500 to 600 meters from the Jam Minaret, this option respects the preservation needs of the Minaret and the archaeological remains of Jam.

In addition, the World Heritage Committee had recommended the construction of an alternative footbridge and a ford across the Hari River. This will enable access of villagers from the Bedam Valley to the Jam valley, as well as allowing a limited number of vehicles to cross the river, following the UNESCO mission in February 2004. So far, the State Party has not implemented this recommendation.

Through the on-going implementation of the UNESCO/Italy and UNESCO/Switzerland Funds-in-Trust projects, the following additional information is available:

In 2005, substantial progress was achieved in the preparation of the consolidation intervention for the protection of the base of the Minaret of Jam, which is the most endangered part of the monument. At a preparatory mission, undertaken in May/June 2005 by UNESCO experts, a geophysical survey of the site was conducted in order to determine the cause of the Minaret's inclination. A geo-radar study was also carried out in order to gain a clearer understanding of the Minaret's foundation.

The October 2005 mission, carried out by the UNESCO experts with the representatives of the Afghan Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, achieved the following outcomes:

- a) Commencement of masonry work at the Minaret's base, which consisted of reconstructing the damaged areas;
- b) Restoration of a damaged window at the upper level of the monument with newly produced bricks;
- c) Excavation carried out around the base which has provided new information on the condition of the upper portion of the foundation of the Minaret;
- d) Discovery of large boulders collected around the foundation, indicating that a flash flood may have occurred sometime in the past which had a sudden impact on the stability of the Minaret.

On 15 March 2006, an expert meeting was organised by the World Heritage Centre in Paris, in order to determine the priorities for further activities for the consolidation of the Jam Minaret in 2006 and to prepare the next interventions. The meeting was attended by six international experts. The experts recommended a plan of action for priority consolidation measures, which includes the completion of the reinforcement of the base of the Minaret

through masonry work, an in-depth analysis of the feasibility of partial strengthening of the base of the Minaret by means of circumferential pre-stressing according to the present site conditions, the undertaking of soil investigations and the installation of a monitoring system. This will allow the expert team to determine whether or not the minaret is stable or whether it continues in its inclination, and if so, at what rate. A mission initiating these activities is scheduled for July 2006.

Furthermore, an archaeological mission organised by the Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge / UK, in co-operation with the State Party, has carried out a survey of the archaeological landscape around Jam in order to place the Minaret in its environmental context and explore the extent of the archaeological site.

It is recommended to field a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to determine whether the site could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. If this is not considered possible, the benchmarks and timeframe for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger shall be defined in close co-operation with the State Party.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.20, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party for having halted the construction of the road and for the progress achieved for the strengthening of the base of the Minaret by masonry work and the geophysical survey of the site;*
4. *Reiterates its strong encouragement of the State Party to construct an alternative footbridge and a ford across the Hari River, in order to enable access of the villagers from the Bedam Valley to the Jam Valley, as well as allowing a limited number of vehicles to cross the river, following the recommendations of the UNESCO mission in February 2004;*
5. *Urges the State Party, with assistance from UNESCO and the international community, to continue the on-going efforts for the structural consolidation of the Minaret as recommended by the expert meeting on the continuation of consolidation activities in Jam, organised by the World Heritage Centre in Paris on 15 March 2006;*
6. *Requests the State Party, with assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate a site management plan, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and to define, in close collaboration with the State Party, benchmarks for corrective measures and related timeframe for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*

8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007, a report on the state of conservation of this property for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007; and*
9. *Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

23. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2003

Criteria:

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2003

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

The property was inscribed as an Emergency nomination on the World Heritage List and simultaneously on the List of World Heritage in Danger in view of the post-conflict situation.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

No clear benchmarks identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 8C.44

27 COM 8C.45

28 COM 15A.22

29 COM 7A.21

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 150,000 (in 2002 and 2003) from the World Heritage Fund was allocated for assistance to Afghanistan, which partly supported the preparation of the Emergency nomination of this property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3,124,027 (2003-2007) by the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust Project "Safeguarding of the Bamiyan site", Phases I and II.

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Fragile state of the cliffs and niches;

- b) Absence of a site management plan and monitoring system;
- c) Presence of anti-personnel mines in the area.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a progress report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre on 31 March 2006, which makes brief references to excavations, surveying, conservation projects and the security arrangements made to prevent illegal excavation and looting in the Bamiyan Valley.

The State Party also reported that a decision had been taken to locate all new government buildings in the Eesa Khan Campaign as foreseen within the Bamiyan City Master Plan, which also includes the foreseen local museum. The original plan for the museum in the northern bazaar of Bamiyan, previously reported to the Committee at its 29th session, has therefore been abandoned.

Through the implementation of the UNESCO Japan-Funds-in-Trust project the following information has been provided:

The preliminary draft site management plan prepared by the Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties (NRICP) in 2004 is currently under revision, and its completion is foreseen for November 2006 after consultation with the State Party. While the Site Management Plan is established as an overall policy document to ensure an adequate framework for the safeguarding of the *outstanding universal value* of the property, the State Party expressed a strong need for a regulated zoning system, to be adopted for the control of land-use and building in and around the Bamiyan site. In order to ensure the protection of cultural heritage resources while infrastructure development is rapidly increasing to accommodate the tourism potential and housing needs of the local population, UNESCO has entrusted Aachen Technical University to provide technical assistance to the State Party for the development of a master plan. The finalised zoning proposal was presented in December 2005 to the State Party, and was officially approved in March 2006 by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. The approval of the master plan will enable the completion of the above-mentioned comprehensive site management plan, defining the roles of the relevant authorities for the management and monitoring of the property.

An on-site workshop is planned in June 2006 to provide a wide awareness-raising opportunity to the local people, as well as other concerned bilateral/multilateral development agencies, donors and NGOs, to ensure appropriate coordination for the long-term implementation of the master plan.

Archaeological missions from France and Japan have carried out on-site excavations, to determine the extension of the areas of archaeological remains, especially within the current buffer zones of the World Heritage site, and this will continue from June 2006 onwards. A training workshop for archaeological professionals in Afghanistan will be held by Japanese experts on the conservation techniques of archaeological objects.

Experts of NRICP have collected fragments of the mural paintings in the Buddhist caves. These have been securely packed and temporarily stored in the Bamiyan Training Centre for Cultural Heritage Conservation. This Centre opened in 2005 with funding from the National Federation of UNESCO Associations of Japan. Presently the pigments of the mural paintings are being analysed in order to identify the most appropriate cleaning and consolidation methods for the mural paintings. 3D measurements in 50 caves have also been carried out

which will be used to monitor topographic distribution of the decay with respect to both the paintings and the caves.

The ICOMOS Germany expert team, led by the President of ICOMOS, has continued work on the collection and conservation of the remaining fragments of the two Giant Buddha statues, which were destroyed in March 2001. With significant financial support from the Government of Germany (143,000 Euros), nearly two-thirds of the fragments of the Western Giant Buddha were salvaged (100 sculptured fragments), and considerable progress was made with regard to the Eastern Giant Buddha (160 fragments) in 2005. Fragments weighing up to 35 tons, along with a countless number of small fragments, were removed from the niches with the help of a crane, then were sorted, documented and deposited in the shelters close to the niches constructed in 2004. The fragments are presently being analysed by experts in Germany. The organic material contained in the fragments enables dating by the Carbon-14 method as well as the identification of the original colouring and different treatment of the surfaces of the exploded Buddha statues. Eventually, geological methods may further allow precise definition of the original position of all the fragments for future consideration of a possible anastylosis.

The conservation of all fragments in both niches is foreseen to be completed by October 2006. As soon as the fragments are identified, documented and stored, the State Party, assisted by the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage, will make appropriate decisions concerning the long-term conservation plan.

Capacity building for local experts and workers are an essential part of all activities. The Fourth Expert Working Group on the Preservation of the Bamiyan Site, held in Kabul from 7 to 10 December 2005, reviewed all operations which took place in 2005, and determined priorities for further activities to be implemented in 2006.

Under the UNESCO Japanese Funds-in-Trust project, the finalisation of the emergency consolidation works for the niches of the Giant Buddha statues will be carried out from late August 2006 by a specialised Italian engineering company, TREVI, which also worked on the site in 2004.

The presence of antipersonnel mines is a major problem, and UNESCO has established an agreement with the United Nations Mine Action Center in Afghanistan (UNMACA), to initiate a major de-mining operation in and around the Bamiyan site, beginning in mid-April.

While large-scale operational activities are still underway for the safeguarding of the property, no benchmarks have yet been identified. In view of the successful operational activities that have been carried out for the consolidation and conservation of the site, it will be appropriate to define clear benchmarks and a reasonable timeframe for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.21, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),

3. *Highly commends* the State Party and the international community for their efforts and commitment to the safeguarding of this property;
4. *Requests* the World Heritage Centre to assist in the finalisation of the comprehensive site management plan by the State Party based on the outstanding universal value of the property and in line with the principles set out in the Operational Guidelines;
5. *Also requests* the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and to define, in close collaboration with the State Party, benchmarks for corrective measures and related timeframe for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
6. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007**, a comprehensive site management plan and a progress report on the implementation of the master plan and on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007; and
7. ***Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

24. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1986

Criteria:

C (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1999

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Threat to the integrity of the values of the site;
- b) Possible impact of heavy traffic on the archaeological remains upon construction of a vehicular bridge (Anegundi Bridge) and a footbridge over the Tungabhadra River.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

- a) Sustainable conservation management mechanism for the whole property with adequate technical staffing;
- b) Adequate traffic regulations;
- c) Revision of major construction projects;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In time for the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee in 2007 (1 February 2007)

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.23

28 COM 15A.24

29 COM 7A.22

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 92,370 for technical co-operation (up to 2005).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: Funding under the France-UNESCO Convention for French expert missions (2003, 2005 and 2006) for an amount of 14,000 Euros.

Previous monitoring missions:

First ICOMOS-World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission in 2000; expert technical assessment mission in 2001; World Heritage Centre and experts advisory missions in 2003 and 2004; ICOMOS-World Heritage Centre advisory mission in August 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Infrastructure construction near inscribed monuments;
- b) Lack of management mechanism;
- c) Lack of building and land-use regulations;
- d) Tourism development pressures.

Current conservation issues:

A series of consultative meetings were organised from 3 to 6 August 2005 in Hampi and Bangalore, financed under the World Heritage Fund, to review the management planning process. Through the active participation of ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre and participants from national and local government, an effective long-term management plan for the conservation of the values of the property has been prepared.

The draft of the integrated management plan (IMP) for the property, in six detailed volumes, was received on 15 January 2006 and has been transmitted to the Advisory Bodies as well as to other concerned international experts for comments.

The IMP for the property has been developed in close consultation with all stakeholders and focuses clearly on the challenges which the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority faces, and describes policies, strategies, and actions required at different levels to bring the Management Plan into full and effective use. It is now being circulated to stakeholder groups and administrative authorities for comment prior to finalising.

ICOMOS deems the pre-final IMP to be a most comprehensive integrated management plan and a model of excellence. However, the quality of the IMP is slightly impaired by the treatment of the statement of significance, a critical point in providing a decision-making reference in a management plan. In view of a possible future re-nomination, a more appropriate understanding of World Heritage criteria is needed. Furthermore, there is no reference made to the authenticity or integrity of the value of the site.

On 31 March 2006, the State Party submitted a brief progress report, as was requested by the 29th session of the Committee, describing the efforts devoted to the IMP. It also refers to the regular conservation measures being undertaken to preserve the vast archaeological remains. However, the State Party has not yet submitted the traffic regulations to deter heavy traffic from the core area of the site. The establishment of these regulations would constitute the condition for resumption the construction of the Anegundi Bridge.

While the revision of the structural sounding of the Anegundi Bridge is being carried out after the seven year suspension of works and consequent exposure to air and water, a more harmonious design could be sought to ensure the integrity, if feasible in terms of structural conditions, before the final resumption of the construction.

ICOMOS notes that the progress report does not make any detailed reference to crucial issues at stake such as the completion of the Anegundi Bridge foreseen by the Karnataka State Public Works Department upon meeting the mentioned preconditions, the commercial complex-cum-interpretation centre by HUDCO, and the management of the Hampi Bazaar around Virupaksha Temple. However, the IMP offers a good analysis of these issues and provides useful and revealing insights into each of these. The analysis of retail outlets suggests that there is little market potential for the development of the intended commercial complex.

A second training session for the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority and its town-planners was held in February 2006, under the France-UNESCO Convention, in view of establishing cadastral maps and building regulations as a basis for a Master Plan to enable building activities to be monitored within and around the property.

Following the recommendations of the 27th and 28th sessions of the World Heritage Committee and the recent missions, the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority has recruited a conservation architect in 2006 to assist with the implementation of the IMP and the future Master Plan. The conservation architect is the first of several professionals to be recruited in order to make the technical unit of the HWHAMA fully operational.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.22, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the efforts and progress made in the inter-sectoral and national/regional co-operation towards effective management of the property;*
4. *Commends the State Party for the quality of the draft integrated management plan;*
5. *Invites the State Party to reconsider the design of the Anegundi Bridge, if deemed as structurally feasible, respecting the visual integrity of the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to implement the following actions, which constitute the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:*
 - a) *To appropriately address the statement of significance within the ongoing review of the draft integrated management plan;*
 - b) *To ensure adequate staffing of the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority and its technical unit, in order to secure the rapid and comprehensive implementation of the integrated management plan;*

- c) *To submit to the World Heritage Centre appropriate traffic regulations, which prohibit heavy traffic on the Old Road leading from Anegundi Bridge to the core archaeological area;*
 - d) *To provide information on the assessment of the construction of the commercial complex-cum-interpretation centre;*
7. ***Further requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007**, the completed integrated management plan and its state of implementation, together with a detailed progress report on the state of conservation of the property, including the above-mentioned issues;*
 8. ***Decides** to consider the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger upon evaluation of the progress report addressing the benchmarks identified in paragraph 6, that may be met in time for the examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007; and*
 9. ***Decides** to retain the Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

25. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2004

Criteria:

C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2004

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Destruction of the property caused by the earthquake in December 2003.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

To be determined based on the redefined Outstanding Universal Value (see below).

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

By February 2009 (see below).

Previous Committee Decisions:

28 COM 14B.55

28 COM 14B.56

29 COM 7A.23

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 (Emergency Assistance, 2004).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 872,500.

Previous monitoring missions :

Several UNESCO missions undertaken in 2004 and 2005; Mission by UNESCO-Tehran Office in February and March 2006.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Lack of comprehensive management plan;
- b) Discrepancy between the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the boundaries of the property actually inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Current conservation issues:

A comprehensive management plan is being drafted within the framework of the financial assistance provided through the UNESCO Japan Funds-in-Trust Emergency Co-operation for Bam. According to a letter from the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization, dated 29 January 2006, this draft management plan takes into consideration possible redefined protective zones of the World Heritage property based on the new archaeological discoveries following the earthquake.

These new archaeological discoveries have raised questions concerning the extent to which the current World Heritage core and buffer zones should be enlarged. The Iranian authorities are currently examining this issue with experts. Based upon the conclusions of the experts, newly redefined core and buffer zones and the Outstanding Universal Value of the property may be proposed for the World Heritage Committee's approval. Should the core and buffer zones be modified significantly, the Iranian authorities will accordingly need to re-nominate the property, following paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Due to the complexity and particular conditions of the property, the updated version of the nomination file and the benchmarks for possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have not yet been elaborated and it is premature to examine the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger before the updated nomination file is finalised. Indeed ICOMOS believes that while the State Party is making laudable progress in moving towards the objectives set out by the Committee and the long-term management of the property, more time will be needed to complete the management plan and to ensure its full and effective implementation. Therefore, reasonable benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger would be the completion and full implementation of the approved management plan.

The Iranian authorities are expected to submit the updated nomination file by February 2007. Should the file include elements that require redefinition of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its physical attributes, the State Party should follow a standard 18-month nomination cycle, resulting in the site being inscribed on the World Heritage List with the newly defined Outstanding Universal Value during 2008. Therefore, the benchmarks for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger could be considered for February 2009. On the contrary, if the updated nomination file justifies the current Outstanding Universal Value, the possible removal could be considered for February 2008.

Meanwhile, a significant cultural grant was provided by the Government of Japan amounting to USD 1 million for the procurement and delivery of technical equipment in March 2006 for the national conservation efforts of the property.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A 23**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Commends the State Party and the UNESCO Japan Funds-in-Trust project for the progress made to elaborate a comprehensive management plan for the existing World Heritage property;
4. Urges the State Party to accelerate its efforts to clearly redefine the World Heritage protective zones which fully reflects the Outstanding Universal Value of Bam and its Cultural Landscape;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with ICOMOS and the State Party, to define benchmarks for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007**, a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations mentioned in points 5 and 6, as well as on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007; and
7. **Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1979

Criteria:

C (iii) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2003

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Partial or significant deterioration of traditional elements of heritage in six of the seven monument zones;
- b) General loss of authenticity and integrity.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

Proposed corrective measures are included in the draft Decision.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

A timeframe has been proposed in the draft Decision.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7B.52

28 COM 15A.25

29 COM 7A.24

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 332,775 (1980 to 1999) mainly for technical co-operation, including USD 20,000 in 1999 for the preparation of an inventory of 120 buildings in Bauddhanath Monument Zone.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: between USD 10 and 15 million under the International Safeguarding Campaign for the Kathmandu Valley (1979-2001). The campaign was officially closed in 2001. An amount of USD 45,000 was provided in 2005 by the Dutch Funds-in-Trust for the establishment of the management plan for the property.

Previous monitoring missions:

Several missions have been carried out since 1993. The World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS high level mission in February 2003 made specific recommendations for the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Further joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was undertaken in April 2005. The most recent expert mission was carried out in August 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Uncontrolled urban development resulting in the loss of traditional urban fabric, in particular privately-owned houses;
- b) Lack of co-ordinated management mechanism

Current conservation issues:

In response to the Decisions made by the Committee at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions, the State Party submitted on 1 February 2006 a proposal for a “minor modification” to the boundaries of the seven monument zones and a proposal for a name change, according to the procedures established in the *Operational Guidelines* paragraphs 163, 164 and 167. These modifications have been examined by ICOMOS and are presented in Document *WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.1*. It is currently not possible for the State Party to legally redefine the World Heritage boundaries, pending the Committee’s approval of these redefined boundaries. Until such a time, legislative provisions are being made in order to facilitate their timely adoption.

As requested by the Committee, the State Party reviewed the validity of the existing criteria (iii)(iv)(vi) and in its proposal, indicated that the criteria used for inscription of the Kathmandu Valley in 1979 would be still applicable and define the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. The proposed modification to the boundaries has been prepared bearing in mind the criteria for inscription, the integrity of the site, and the conservation of the attributes that define the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

The technical evaluation carried out by ICOMOS of the proposed new property name and the proposed “minor modification” of boundaries suggests that the modification proposal made by the State Party is sufficiently important to constitute consideration as a “major modification”, and should therefore follow the same procedures as for new nominations.

ICOMOS considers that the boundary revision and the development of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should correspond to both the monumental ensembles and the surrounding traditional vernacular buildings, which had been inscribed in 1979 and have retained their Outstanding Universal Value.

The State Party suggested the name “Kathmandu Valley” be changed to “Seven Monument Ensembles of the Kathmandu Valley”, whereas ICOMOS recommends “Seven historic ensembles of the Kathmandu Valley”.

The comprehensive progress report on the state of conservation received on 6 February 2006 provides an extensive description of a number of major restoration works to monuments which have been carried out and monitored by the national and municipal heritage units. The ongoing preparation by the State Party of the inventory of categorised heritage buildings in the seven monument zones is reported as partially complete. The Department of Archaeology, together with the municipalities, also continues to undertake conservation activities of these inventoried heritage buildings, in particular the monumental ensembles.

The integrated management plan (IMP) for the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site is currently under preparation by the Department of Archaeology, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO-Kathmandu Office, with financial assistance from the Dutch Government. The complexity of the management of the World Heritage property is a result of the widespread and varied nature of the seven Monument Zones, which are situated in three municipalities and a village, as well as having a royal Trust as a site-management agency in one of the zones. The IMP addresses this situation by advocating that each municipality and agency make appropriate decisions for the conservation priorities and to be able to provide coherent technical advice to the local population. The significant efforts made by the Nepali authorities to complete the IMP are to be commended. Although the completion of the IMP was initially scheduled for summer 2006, given the complex nature of the plan as indicated above, it is judged important to provide an additional year, until summer 2007, in order to ensure its full and effective completion. Without this extra time to ensure stakeholder agreement and support for the results, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre believe that the IMP would not have sufficient local support, nor the necessary credibility to be fully implemented.

ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre wish to note that, while the technical evaluation carried out by ICOMOS in Document *WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.1* recommends to postpone the approval of the proposed redefined boundaries and encourages a full nomination document be compiled for the renomination of the property, it is important that such efforts should not delay the on-going work on the Integrated Management Plan for the property.

In the framework of the IMP, the State Party has adopted a policy to revise building by-laws in order to ensure the integrity of the heritage areas. The revised building by-laws will take into consideration the specificity of monument zones, and prioritise restoration over reconstruction. This is intended to function as a corrective measure to address illegal building activities. Furthermore, monitoring measures are being devised to improve the implementation of conservation policies and by-laws, using the Bhaktapur monument zone as a pilot case.

A digital documentation database on the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site, which centralises all information available concerning the site, is being prepared as the basis for the establishment of a heritage documentation centre for the Kathmandu Valley, to be accessible

to the public. A third and final mission of the University of Venice (IUAV) in summer 2005 completed the inventory and categorization of privately owned buildings in the World Heritage property. The results of all three IUAV surveys in 2003, 2004 and 2005 have been transmitted to the State Party, notably to the municipalities, who will now be able to make use of this data for monitoring purposes. ICOMOS emphasises that a conservation expert mission in August 2005 noted that the State Party did not possess the important documentation from many earlier missions carried out to the site during the 1990s with the support of the World Heritage Fund. ICOMOS recommends that the process of preparing a consultable database should begin with efforts to recover, catalogue and scan all earlier documentation projects carried out on the World Heritage property.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that, in light of the progress made in implementing the Decisions of the Committee, a fully operational site management system including assured implementation of conservation guidelines and building regulations within the IMP, and appropriate legislative protection in order to safeguard the remaining integrity of the property, would constitute the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, these benchmarks could be met within the framework of the requested renomination procedure, following the evaluation presented in Document *WHC-06/30.COM/INF.8B.1*. Given the complexity of the issues involved and the difficult political situation in Nepal, these benchmarks could be achieved by 1 February 2009 in time for the 33rd session of the Committee.

A review mission is planned for late June 2006 with a view to providing guidance in the finalisation of the IMP.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.24, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the co-ordinated efforts made in improving the conservation of the property and for the progress made in redefining the property's boundaries;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to complete the categorised inventories in the seven Monument Zones;*
5. *Recognises that the integrated management plan will require some time for completion and adoption;*
6. *Requests the State Party to prepare a full new nomination document, in reference to the paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, based on modified boundaries, with a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, integrated management plan and appropriate legal protection, and to submit it as soon as possible according to the procedures indicated in paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines, preferably by 1 February 2008;*

7. Requests the State Party to continue the establishment of an integrated conservation management system:
 - a) completing and adopting the integrated management plan by summer 2007;
 - b) ensuring establishment of concrete conservation guidelines and their dissemination;
 - c) adopting appropriate building regulations to control the transformation of heritage buildings within the World Heritage boundaries as well as in their buffer zones;
 - d) undertaking appropriate monitoring measures in order to assess the implementation of the management system by documenting and evaluating all physical changes (including alterations and demolitions) regularly;
8. Encourages the State Party to request Technical Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of the appropriate corrective measures stated above, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
9. Invites the international community to provide financial and technical assistance in support of the implementation of the corrective measures stated above;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007**, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
11. Decides to consider the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger based on the examination of the new nomination document to be submitted as well as the effectiveness of the established conservation management system; and
12. Decides to retain the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

27. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171-172)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1981

Criteria:

C (i) (ii) (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2000

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Demolition of the hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

Several criteria are proposed below.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

By June 2007 (the criteria proposed below require certain budgetary arrangements by the Provincial Government of Punjab. It is expected that such budgetary arrangements will be assured in the fiscal year July 2007-June 2008).

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7(a) 24

28 COM 15A.26

29 COM 7A.25

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 165,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000 (NORAD: USD 900,000, approved in 2002; Getty Foundation: USD 75,000, approved in 2004).

Previous monitoring missions :

UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission in November 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Urban Pressure;
- b) Insufficient management mechanism (including incomplete legislation, lack of financial resources).

Current conservation issues:

On 5 April 2006, the World Heritage Centre received a state of conservation report, dated 31 March 2006, with a copy of the two draft master plans from the State Party, one for Lahore Fort and the other for Shalamar Gardens. This report indicates that these final drafts will soon be submitted to the relevant authorities for approval.

In reply to the Committee's Decision (**29 COM 7A.25**), the report provides background information concerning the transfer of management of the property from the Federal to the Provincial authorities. This transfer is intended to attain the integrated management of the property and its surrounding area, and responds to the previous lack of co-ordination between the Federal Department of Archaeology responsible for the conservation within the protected monuments, and the provincial agencies in charge of the management of the surrounding areas. Further to this positive change, the Government of Punjab is also strengthening the buffer zone, and has been considering whether or not to acquire and demolish 106 houses around the Shalamar Gardens in order to improve the buffer zone between the locality and cultural property. All staff that was posted on the property prior to the transfer has been retained at the agreement of the Federal Government.

The report also describes recent conservation efforts made by the Government of Punjab, such as improvement of the grassy lawn and the provision of visitor facilities at the Fort. Concerning the Shalamar Gardens, negotiations are underway among the relevant Government Agencies to discuss the removal of structures around the Gardens in order to provide a sufficient buffer zone. In addition, the Lahore Development Authority has been

requested to prepare a proper drainage system around the Gardens to protect it from storm water, one of the major causes of destruction of the wall of the Gardens.

Furthermore, the report states that the Government of Punjab has allocated Rs. 600 million (about USD 10 million) for the conservation of the property during the next five years, and various conservation works with a high priority have already been identified.

As requested by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was undertaken to the property in November 2005. According to the mission report, the Directorate of Archaeology of the Punjab Provincial Government has made considerable progress in the preparation of the master plans for the Lahore Fort and the Shalamar Gardens. The master plan for the Lahore Fort has been completed and is awaiting final approval. The master plan for the Shalamar Gardens is under preparation.

However, the mission recognised that no protective and/or corrective measures have been taken concerning the hydraulic works at the Shalamar Gardens that were demolished by the construction of a Grand Trunk Road, in spite of the request made by the Committee in 2000. Neither protective measures such as fencing around the site of the demolished hydraulic works, nor consolidation works on its remaining foundations have been undertaken by the State Party.

ICOMOS also pointed out that the state of conservation of the property was generally poor, mainly due to lack of daily maintenance, encroachment, inadequate water drainage, poor visitor management, etc. Although the recent establishment of the Punjab Heritage Foundation by the Provincial Government reinforces the financial backing for the protection of the cultural property in the province, many of the projects currently under preparation for possible funding from the Foundation would not be in line with the principles outlined in the master plans under preparation. In this context, the State Party is expected to prioritise the allocation of the available resources according to the management objectives determined in the master plans which are under preparation.

The recommendations made by a UNESCO consultant in 2003 to extend the World Heritage property and its buffer zone were also supported by the ICOMOS expert. It was recommended to include the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque), the Tomb of Ranjit Singh and the open areas around these structures in the core zone of the Fort, while the limit of the core zone of the Shalamar Gardens should be reviewed by integrating the Naqar Khana and all other external hydraulic elements. The definition of the buffer zones should also be re-considered accordingly. At present, the possible extension of the property has not been included in the master plans.

The ICOMOS expert also made 11 recommendations primarily aimed at ensuring co-ordination of decision making, improving property maintenance, and accelerating finalization and consolidation of the management plans developed for the two sites.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision 29 COM 7A.25, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Notes that considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the master plans for the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
4. *Congratulates the State Party on the positive change in the conservation framework created through the transfer of management of the property from Federal to Provincial authority;*
5. *Commends the State Party for all actions taken in the last year to advance the conservation of the property;*
6. *Regrets, however, that neither the protective measures, such as fencing around the site for the demolished hydraulic works at the Shalamar Gardens, nor the consolidation works on its remaining foundation, have been undertaken by the State Party;*
7. *Notes with concern that the actual resources allocated by the Punjab Provincial Government may not adequately address the conservation challenges identified in the master plans currently under preparation;*
8. *Requests the State Party to implement the following measures, which constitute the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger:*
 - a) *to carry out the protective measures for the demolished hydraulic works at the Shalamar Gardens and consolidate its remaining foundation;*
 - b) *to approve the master plans for the Shalamar Gardens and the Lahore Fort; and*
 - c) *to prioritise the allocation and use of the available resources according to the management objectives determined in the master plans. Priority should be given to the regular cleaning/maintenance and stabilisation of the site until the approval of the master plans;*
9. *Encourages the State Party to consider the possible extension of the core and buffer zones recommended by the UNESCO mission in 2003;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007, a report on the progress achieved on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007; and*
11. *Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

28. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

See Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A.Add

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

29. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2000

Criteria:

C (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2003

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO mission (CLT/CH) to Azerbaijan, 23 February-1 March 2002; UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, 18-22 October 2002; UNESCO mission (Assistant Director-General for Culture), 21-25 January 2003; UNESCO mission, 22-23 April 2003; ICCROM mission, 10-14 November 2003; UNESCO mission to participate in the Round Table, 6-8 October 2004; UNESCO mission, 3-8 September 2005 (with the University of Minnesota, USA).

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the illegal demolition of historic buildings and uncontrolled construction and reconstruction within the Walled City;
- b) Lack of any management system and insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

- a) Administrative structure and related programmes within the Cabinet of Ministers defined and supported with adequate resources and fully operational;
- b) Completion of an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating their physical condition as well as expected rehabilitation methodologies;
- c) Completion of a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

1 February 2008

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7B.59

28 COM 15A.29

29 COM 7A.28

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 15,000 for Preparatory Assistance (1998); USD 14,800 for Technical Assistance (2004);

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: 2005/06: USD 30,000, (American Funds Special Account).

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the demolition of buildings and uncontrolled construction within the Walled City;
- b) Overall lack of any management system and in particular insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities,
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

Current conservation issues:

A mission was carried out by UNESCO jointly with the University of Minnesota (USA), 3-8 September 2005, to evaluate the state of conservation of the site and conditions necessary to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The conclusions of the mission reinforced the need to follow through on the recommendations previously given in the 2003 and 2004 missions, and stressed the need to make changes to the management structure for the site. A contract has been established between UNESCO, the University of Minnesota and in cooperation with the University of Architecture and Construction of Baku, which aims at the elaboration of the inventory of the built heritage of the World Heritage property.

The World Heritage Centre received a state of conservation report by the State Party on 31 January 2006. This report noted that, as previously brought to the attention of the Committee, the responsibility for the reserve "Icheri Sheher" from the joint custody of the Ministry of Culture and the Baku City Executive Power was transferred to the Cabinet of Ministers, and subsequent decrees which interpret and aid implementation of that decision were issued. The report also noted that "unfortunately, the newly designated department had not taken up its duties" and that management responsibility for the property is still retained by the former administration.

The report does not include the inventory data of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating the physical conditions as well as the rehabilitation methodologies, nor does it include a comprehensive management plan and an action plan update. These requirements were requested by the Committee in Decision **29 COM 7A.28** (Durban, 2005).

The report's conclusion notes that a number of measures will need to be implemented in order to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Most of them are very general and are simply a reiteration of long repeated statements about necessary planning goals to address the conservation of the Icheri Sheher.

Taking into account the failure of the Cabinet of Ministers to take up its responsibilities, and the lack of positive action on the many points raised by the Committee during its last two sessions, it is clear that the threats to the outstanding universal value of the property are still in place. While the frankness of the progress report provided by the State Party is appreciated, UNESCO and ICOMOS are deeply concerned that in spite of the involvement of many working level professionals for many years in addressing urban conservation issues in the

Walled City, that sufficient political commitment to the administrative changes necessary to ensure the long term conservation of the property is still lacking. Every effort should be made to locate international assistance which could assist the State Party to move forward, possibly making use of the longstanding World Bank involvement with conservation projects in the historic centre.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Encourages the State Party to continue to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other stakeholders, particularly in implementing activities outlined in the action plan;*
4. *Notes with great concern that little progress has been made towards implementating the recommendations of the Committee in 2005, and that in particular one critical decision reported during the 29th session (the transfer of management responsibility of the property to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan) has itself not yet been implemented;*
5. *Regrets that no progress has been made with the elaboration of a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management at the property;*
6. *Urges the State Party to fully implement all previous decisions made by the Committee at its 28th and 29th sessions;*
7. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the actions taken by the State Party in the follow-up of previous Committee decisions and to elaborate an updated Action Plan in collaboration with the State Party;*
8. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007**, on the state of conservation of the property, including all actions taken to implement the corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.*
9. *Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

30. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1996

Criteria:

C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2004

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Urban development pressure through high-rise building project impacting on the visual integrity of the Cathedral as a landmark;
- b) Lack of buffer-zone;

Benchmarks for corrective measures:

- a) Halting of high-rise project;
- b) Clear designation of a buffer-zone on both sides of the river, including protection of visual integrity;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

July 2005 to February 2006

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7B.63

28 COM 15B.70

29 COM 7A.29

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Workshop 14 November 2003.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Urban development pressure through high-rise building project impacting on the visual integrity of the Cathedral as a landmark;
- b) Lack of buffer-zone.

Current conservation issues:

By letter of 19 January 2006, the authorities responsible for the conservation of the city of Cologne informed the World Heritage Centre that, on 15 December 2005, a decision had been taken by the City Council of Cologne addressing the two requests and benchmarks for corrective measures set by the Committee. The decision was taken to alter the development plan of the Cologne-Deutz area, thus halting the high-rise construction of the other four towers. Any high-rise construction activities at the site of Cologne-Deutz have since ceased, and no further skyscraper has been built.

A moderated planning procedure has been started to design a planning framework that reconciles the urban renewal with the safeguarding of the Cologne Cathedral World Heritage property.

The decision further stated that a 200-hectare buffer zone on the left bank of the river will be put in place to protect the World Heritage property. The authorities informed the Centre that an extension of the buffer-zone to the right bank of the river is only foreseen if the outcome of the moderated planning procedure and the final height planning scheme confirm the need to do so.

The city authorities have started a consultation process with experts to discuss and define the future use and design of the Cologne-Deutz area. UNESCO and ICOMOS were invited to participate in a workshop series which will be finished in May 2006. An ICOMOS expert has been designated to accompany the series of consultation meetings.

Two sessions have been held with the participation of two ICOMOS members. Two of the three architecture firms commissioned to make preliminary plans have presented redesigns, whereas the third firm continued based on the earlier plans which included high-rise buildings (yet reduced to a height of 60 metres). The latter was requested to alter its plans in accordance with the other two firms. The procedure is scheduled to be completed on 12 May 2006.

It seems that the previous controversial development plan will only be officially given up, when a new development plan based on the results of the workshop process is finalized, through legal procedures, which may take time. It is clear that the City of Cologne is seeking a solution corresponding to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS carefully reviewed the current buffer zone proposal. The City's present plan for a buffer zone is not yet in accordance with the request of the Committee (**29 COM 7A.29** paragraph 10) insofar as the right side of the Rhine (Deutz) has not been included. The buffer zone on the left side of the Rhine is also problematic as its western boundary runs along a road which was only constructed in the 1950s and therefore has no historical reference. The buffer zone should instead run along the former medieval boundary of the city. Discussions about these different proposals are being held in May 2006 in Cologne. Furthermore an extensive plan prepared by the City of Cologne about the height development inside the buffer zone (i.e. the old town) will also be discussed.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the German authorities for progress made with the definition of the buffer zone and requests that the right bank of the river (Deutz side) be also included into the buffer zone of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit the modifications to the boundaries in accordance with Chapter III.I of the Operational Guidelines by **1 February 2007**;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction that the high-rise building project was halted to protect the integrity of the property;*

6. *Recommends that the Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and contemporary architecture (May 2005) be taken into account for any further decisions and planning processes regarding the urban development in Cologne;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007**, on the state of conservation of the property, describing the results of the workshops conducted on the future use and design of the Deutz area as well as any further steps undertaken in view of high-rise development and the application of the Vienna Memorandum for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
8. *Decides to retain Cologne Cathedral (Germany) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

31. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)

Year(s) of inscription on the World Heritage List:

2005

Criteria:

C (ii) (iii) (iv)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2005

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the buildings;
- b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years;
- c) Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials;
- d) Damage caused by the wind.

Benchmarks for the implementation of corrective measures:

Structural consolidation works for several buildings, such as the “public buildings”, the housing sector and the industrial zone.

Security measures for the visitors in some buildings, such as the ones located in the industrial zone. Others need cleaning and selection of adequate material for rehabilitation.

In order to accomplish all the necessary corrective measures the Master Plan has to be implemented with care by the responsible institutions, a management team, devoted exclusively to this exercise should be established in order to provide integral management of the site.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

The work plan goes until 2008, it is divided in two phases: The first phase includes security measures for visitors, cleaning and selection of materials and low cost corrective measures. The second phase should include the structural consolidation of all the buildings.

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 8B.51

29 COM 8B.52

29 COM 8C.1

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions :

October 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, and stucco and lightweight construction that functioned with regular maintenance;
- b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years as well as vandalism at the site;
- c) Metal cladding corroded and some of the structural elements dismantled. A few buildings, such as the Leaching house, are liable to structural collapse if no support is given;
- d) Very little conservation work carried out;
- e) Damage caused by the wind.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received the State of Conservation report from the State Party. The report qualifies the current state of conservation of the site as “regular”, due to the length of time since the site was abandoned and with no specific conservation actions.

Some of the Actions taken by the State Party in order to reverse this situation include: the regulation and control of visitors, the end of the constant dismantling and robbery of materials, which also includes prosecution measures, the cleaning of the site and the Humberstone Office in particular. With the resources obtained from private donors the restoration of the public civil buildings with major importance was concluded, the buildings included the market, the hotel, the school and the theatre. For the year 2006 other restoration works will be completed. Definitive structural works for the buildings in risk of collapse are still an emergency for the conservation of the site.

Unfortunately, the Programme for Prior Interventions presented by the State Party in 2005 has still not yet been funded and has not been executed. As it is recognized by the State Party, the works completed did not benefit the most damaged buildings, only the ones that had more tourist attraction. The Master Plan, as well, has not been totally implemented.

Other threats to the site are: the uncontrolled access of vehicles to the Humberstone Office, the occupation of certain buildings for uses that were not specified in the Master Plan; Military exercises by the Chilean Army, which is the proprietor of a great part of the buffer zone. This situation has been discussed with the Commander in Chief of the Army and the situation is on its way to being resolved; the trace of Road A-16, that divides the Site in two, is still in the project phase.

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 29 COM 8B.51, 29 COM 8B.52, 29 COM 8C.1 adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Notes with great concern that no further progress has been made in the implementation of the Master Plan and finding an alternate route for the trace of road A-16;*

4. *Regrets that no significant structural reinforcement works have been made on the most damaged buildings and recommends that the State Party elaborates an International Assistance request for the elaboration of an emergency action plan;*
5. *Urges the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the progress made concerning the trace of an alternate road to the A-16;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2007, a progress report on the implementation of the master plan, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

32. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Year(s) of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1986

Criteria:

C (i) (iii)

Years(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1986

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

The adobe, earthen, structures are easily damaged by natural erosion as they become exposed to air and rain and require continuous conservation efforts and substantial ancillary measures.

Benchmarks for the implementation of the corrective measures:

- a) Establishment of the Multisectorial Commission;
- b) Stability of the phreatic level in the property;
- c) The area protected from intruders.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

- a) The objectives of the Multisectorial Commission attained in 2004;
- b) Drainage works Phase one, completed in 2005;
- c) Drainage works Phase two, to be completed in 2006;
- d) Other conservation works 2006 and beyond.

Previous Committee Decisions:

27 COM 7A.27

28 COM 15A.30

29 COM 7A.30

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 108,650 elaboration of the Master Plan, adobe conservation seminar, technical assistance and Emergency Assistance Request for the evacuation of water from the ceremonial centres.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Risk of disintegration and destruction of structures, surfaces and decorative art caused by humidity produced by rising water levels in the aquifer of the property;
- b) Delay in legislative procedures for Draft legislation No. 3807 concerning the illegal occupation of the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone.

Current conservation issues:

In January 2006, the World Heritage Centre received the State of Conservation report from the State Party, including the final results of the works carried out during the first phase of the emergency actions undertaken in the archaeological complex. The works were finalized in December 2005 and the resulting in a continuous decrease in the water level of at least 0.19 meter each month, these actions have maintained a stable phreatic level as was requested by the Committee. The report also describes the measures taken to remove the excess vegetation from the Great Chimú and Ulhe Palaces; these measures consist on the cleaning and extraction of all the vegetation during 2006.

Concerning the press information regarding the farmers and occupants of the Archeological zone, the State of Conservation report gives information on the following advances in this issue: the legal background for the resettlement of and recuperation of the Archeological zone was set by law 28621, called Law on the Need for a Public Significance of the recuperation of the Archeological Complex of Chan Chan, and prescribes the establishment of a Multisectorial Commission. This was established on 30 March 2004 and is composed of National and local representatives. The occupants of the Archeological site were notified to present their cases to the commission. At the moment the Commission is working in the regulation of the Law 28621, and once the regulation is approved, the analysis of the 200 cases will begin in order to define the relocation and appropriate legal measures according to Ministerial resolution 0153-2005-ED.

The report also mentions a recent increase in waste and deforestation on the roads that cross Chan Chan from East to West in the central and south part of the complex. According to the report, the measures taken include the identification of the violators, administrative sanctions and discussions with the concerned Municipal Governments in order to clean the place and impose official sanctions.

Additionally, the report mentions two projects carried out for the conservation of the site. The first project began in 2005 and included the conservation of Velarde Palace and support for the reorganization of the Chan Chan Museum, both finalized in 2005. It also included the enlargement of drainage n°13, foreseen for February 2006 with financing from the International Assistance Request of the World Heritage Centre already in the UNESCO office Lima with a total amount of USD 30,000. The second project concerns the third mission of the Institute for Applied Technology to Cultural Assets (ITABC) in Rome to Chan Chan for the elaboration of a digital topographic system for the conservation and documentation of the site to be used for the conception of the Master and Management Plan of the Site. This project includes: Restoration of the Rivero Palace, Archeological Park of Chan Chan and the

Documentation Centre. This project is being carried out in collaboration with the National Institute for Culture (INC).

Draft Decision: 30 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the actions taken to protect and preserve the World Heritage site of Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, in particular the progress made with regard to reducing the water level at the property and the restoration of the buildings;*
4. *Congratulates the State Party for the efforts made to solve the problem of the resettlement of the occupants and farmers from the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, a report on the process of resettlement of illegal farmers, as well as on the results obtained within the framework of the International Assistance provided under the World Heritage Fund, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
6. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

33. Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1993

Criteria:

C (iv) (v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2005

Threats and Dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Serious deterioration of materials;
- b) Serious deterioration of structures;
- c) Serious deterioration of town planning coherence;
- d) Lack of conservation policies.

Benchmarks for the implementation of corrective measures:

- a) adoption and effective implementation of an emergency plan;
- b) adoption and effective implementation of an integrated management plan;
- c) adoption and implementation of an effective management structure;
- d) a considerable improvement of the state of conservation of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

To be identified in consultation with the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

29 COM 7B.92

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

Monitoring missions in 2002 and 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Serious deterioration of materials and structures;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms.

Current Conservation issues:

In August 2002, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was undertaken to Coro and its Port (La Vela) to assess its management and state of conservation. The mission concluded that there were strong indications that the site met the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and it issued a list of fourteen recommendations to remedy this situation.

In April 2005, UNESCO and ICOMOS undertook a second reactive monitoring mission, in which it reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the first mission of 2002, evaluated the overall state of conservation of the site, assessed whether it met the criteria for danger listing and elaborated elements for a programme of action to strengthen the conservation and management of the site.

This mission concluded that the State Party had committed itself at the highest level to address the issues of concern expressed in the 2002 mission report and the subsequent decisions of the Committee, particularly through the creation of a Presidential Commission for the Protection of the Site. This Commission has the task of preparing, over a three year period, an integral plan for the conservation and development of the area, including a proposal for a management structure.

Furthermore, it noted the increased presence and control of the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (IPC) and advances in the consolidation of the Municipal Institutes for Heritage (IMP) of Miranda (Coro) and Colina (the port of La Vela).

The mission noted, however, that most actions were in the planning phase and that the results, scope and impact of the work of the Presidential Commission on the state of conservation of the site could only be assessed at a later stage. In addition, the mission was informed that heavy rains occurred between November 2004 and February 2005 and that these rains caused severe damage to a great number of structures, both in Coro and La Vela. In addition, the mission observed a serious deterioration of the authenticity and integrity of the urban ensemble, particularly in La Vela.

Following the recommendations of these two joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions, undertaken in 2002 and 2005, to Coro and its Port, the Committee decided to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Furthermore, the Committee confirmed the validity of the conclusions and recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of 2002 and adopted the above-mentioned four benchmarks for the future assessment of the effectiveness of measures to be taken by the State Party to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

As requested by the Committee, the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (IPC) submitted a report, dated 14 February 2006, including an outline for an integrated plan of conservation and development of Coro, La Vela and its Area of Influence, (Lineamientos del Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo de Coro, La Vela y sus áreas de influencia). The outline is based on a set of four investigatory analyses (PLINCODE) including documents on the history, the architectural and urban values, the environmental and the socio-economic situation of Coro and La Vela. It identifies eight key threats to the Site and its environs and drafts an outline of an action plan.

A State Party report on the emergency actions taken for the protection of the heritage (Informe Del Estado Venezolano sobre la salvaguarda Del Patrimonio de Coro y La Vela) has been submitted. The report indicates actions including workshops and forums with the aim of awareness and capacity building and substantial investments in a real estate pilot project, in provisional security interventions and in a drainage system.

As requested by the Committee, an outline of a risk management plan, dated 31 August 2005, was received by the World Heritage Centre.

The above-mentioned documents will be the base for the final document, the integrated development plan that is intended to be approved by the Venezuelan government on 3 August 2006.

However, the documents do not permit to evaluate the state of conservation; and no such document has been made available. The integrated management plan remains, for the most part, in the analysis and planning phase. There is no conservation plan and no such document has been provided.

The submitted report on emergency actions lacks essential information. In particular, there is no assessment of the present state of conservation or levels of deterioration; no criteria for setting priorities of immediate interventions and no timetable for implementation. The actions put into operation are not sufficient to effectively protect the site from further deterioration.

The risk management plan lacks essential information. Notably, it does not take in account the prevention and response to damages caused by xylophage plagues, by fire, by armed conflicts, by winds and tropical storms, by hazards of human origin nor by hazards of industrial pollution.

Overall, most actions remain so far in the planning phase and that the results, scope and impact of the work of the Presidential Commission on the state of conservation of the site can only be assessed at a later stage. In the meantime, the World Heritage property is not managed as one integrated whole and that there is no conservation plan.

Draft Decision 30 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **27 COM 7B.102**, **28 COM 15B.106** and **29 COM 7B.92B** adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 29th (Durban, 2005) sessions,*
3. *Expresses its grave concern about the state of conservation of the property and the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;*
4. *Urges the State Party to continue implementation of the recommendations issued by the UNESCO/ICOMOS missions of 2002 and 2005;*
5. *Requests the State Party to develop a time-bound plan for the implementation of the following benchmarks, which constitute the conditions for removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger:*
 - a) *adoption and implementation of an emergency plan;*
 - b) *adoption and effective implementation of an integrated management plan;*
 - c) *adoption and implementation of an effective management structure;*
 - d) *a considerable improvement of the state of conservation of the property.*
6. *Recalls article 11.4 of the Convention and paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines with regard to ascertained danger (including serious deterioration of materials, serious deterioration of structures and serious deterioration of town-planning coherence) and potential danger (lack of conservation policy);*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, a progress report on implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;*
8. *Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

JERUSALEM

34. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

See Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7A.Add*